The Long Island
FISHERMAN
THE LARGEST WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

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FRONT PAGE PHOTO

HUDSON RIVER BASS: The Tallman Marsh at Piermont is a nursery area for bass, and schoolies like these will smash bucktails on an outgoing tide.

"ROCKY" CONTINUED

are busy with a new plot to reduce the life giving potential of this most important estuary. The word is out that plans are developing to dump huge amounts of fill from the IBM property recently sold to the giant computer firm by the Rockefellers into the Hudson River somewhere near Tarrytown. This is (perhaps not so coincidentally) the precise area which was to be filled for Rocky's misguided plans for a super-expressway from Croton to Tarrytown. (This plan was dutifully aborted by a State Court decision in the 60's).

If you remember, the governor felt quite frustrated at his failure to build "his road" at that time. Is it possible that one of the Governor's weaknesses of character is an inability to accept the will of the people? Is it possible that this frustration is creating his poorly thought out public statements about "his bridge?" Is it also not possible that he is turning to more devious means of getting his way? We think this is probably the case, and we urge all to keep alert for any filling plans on the Hudson River between Tarrytown and Croton - and particularly near Rockwood Hall State Park (given to the state by the Rockefellers during the road controversy).

The Governor, David Rockefeller, and other members of this lordly family would do well to remember that Pocantico Hills is their proper estate, and not New York State (never mind the United States).

For more information, call Bernard Weissman at (914) 693-4573 or David Seymour at (914) 265-3119.

MID-HUDSON STRIPED BASS FISHING TOURNAMENT

The Greater Newburgh Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the first annual Mid-Hudson Striped Bass Tournament. The event will run for a month and will be restricted to that part of the Hudson encompassed by the Poughkeepsie Bridge on the north, and the Bear Mountain Bridge to the south. The tournament will begin April 27th and will continue until May 29th. A $2.00 registration fee will be required for all contestants over 16 years of age, while younger registrants will pay a $1.00 fee. Registration will be handled by the Newburgh and Beacon Chambers of Commerce and by area merchants in both Orange and Dutchess counties.

For many years, scientists, biologists, and fishermen have raved about the tremendous population of big striped bass in our area; yet, there has been little or no interest in fishing for them. This is precisely the reason why the Newburgh Chamber is sponsoring the tournament - to unlock the secrets of the Hudson River striped bass for once and for all.

The Chamber will use the registration fees as the sole source of revenue for cash awards. It is hoped that substantial cash prizes will lure downstaters up to our area to show us how to catch fish in the Hudson, and will prove to be an incentive in attracting local anglers. There will be a youth and women's division that will share in the cash prizes.

Interested fishermen won't have an excuse that they don't know how to catch stripers because a noted expert is coming to the area to tell us how.

Mr. Peter Barrett of the Garcia Corporation in New Jersey will present a slide show and lecture at 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday, April 18th. The program will take place in the North Auditorium of West Point's Thayer Hall and will be sponsored by the West Point Fishing Club. It is free and open to the public. Captain Michael Wikan, president of the West Point Fishing Club, and Mr. Bill Lockwood, Executive Director, Greater Newburgh Chamber of Commerce, invite and urge all interested parties to attend. Mr. Barrett will have an interesting slide program, and will demonstrate the type of tackle used to take Hudson River stripers.

OFFICIAL EMBLEM FOR SOBA

The **Save Our Bays Assn.,** a Long Island south shore based marine environmental organization, unveiled their new official emblem, a militant blue claw crab.

Poised in a position to do battle with those who would do harm to the marine waters of Long Island, the emblem will appear on all material distributed by SOBA.

Save Our Bays, formed in May 1971, has been leading the way in informing the public about off-shore drilling by distributing tens of thousands of fact sheets about the serious consequences involved in such unsafe operations.

CON ED FISH KILL BACK FOR TRIAL

The New York State Appelate Court decision to return Con Ed's fish-kill case for trial in the State Supreme Court is far from a victory for Con Ed, said Al Reinfelder, president of the Striped Bass Fund.

"Now Con Ed will have to convince the Court that it is using the best available techniques to protect the Hudson River fishery at Indian Point," continued Mr. Reinfelder. "Con Ed should have some difficulty with that point."

"While other utilities are turning to cooling towers and 'closed systems' to protect eco-systems, Con Ed wants to study the damage Indian Point does to the River's fish. This attitude despite Atomic Energy Commission staff recommendations for closed system cooling. Even Con Ed's own research clearly indicates this need.

"In the matter to be tried Con Ed killed 163,000 fish while testing Indian Point #2. At that time the plant was drawing only 140,000 gallons of River water per minute. In full operation Indian Point #2 will use over 800,000 gallons per minute. Indian Points 1 and 2 combined will use over a million gallons per minute and if Indian Point #3 goes on line while Con Ed still draws River water, they'll be taking over 2,000,000 gallons of water per minute . . . and whatever is in it.

"The fish kill in question was simply a modest demonstration of Con Ed's potential as the leading unlicensed fisherman on the River," Reinfelder said.

Calling the Indian Point Plant a 'Giant Predator,' Dr. C. Philip Goodyear, A.E.C. expert, said the plant could kill 30-50% of the eggs, larvae, and juvenile striped bass in the River and that the Hudson supplies 80% of the middle Atlantic bass fishery.

"Despite a 10-year record of almost continuous fish kills Con Ed wants to operate Indian Point 1, 2 and 3 with once-through cooling. Apparently the utility would rather protect their construction cost for New York than to protect the coastal striper fishery annually producing tens of millions of dollars for commercial and recreational interests," Mr. Reinfelder said.

In conclusion, Reinfelder pointed out that, "Con Ed reportedly claims innocence saying they're not doing anything to catch fish. The question is, What is Con Ed doing not to catch fish' . . . and the answer to that enriches nearby dumping grounds regularly."

For further information, please phone Rod Vandivert (516) 587-3811.

SPRING MEETING OF STATE FISH & WILDLIFE BOARD

One of New York's most important and scarcest environmental assets - wetlands - will be the focus of the spring meeting of the State Fish and Wildlife Management Act Board. The meeting will be held April 26-27 at Kutsher's Country Club, Monticello.

New York State's wetlands: identtification and classification will be the topic of this 33rd semi-annual meeting of the Board. Established in 1957 under authority of the pioneering Fish and Wildlife Management Act, the Board reviews and recommends action on fish and wildlife plans, programs and practices submitted by regional boards across the State.

"Wetlands are an indispensable part of a healthy environment," explained Gordon Haseley, State Board Chairman. "They serve as feeding and breeding centers for much of our fish and wildlife, game and non-game species alike. Unfortunately, they are also prime targets for 'development' and so are in almost constant danger of being eliminated."

Even with the passage of the Environmental Quality Bond Act of 1972, there is not enough money to protect all of New York's wetlands. The Department of Environmental Conservation is working, in cooperation with other groups, to first protect those that are most vulnerable to early pressure. This is the reason that FWMA boards on the regional and State level are focusing their attention on wetlands.

FWMA provides the mechanism for the necessary cooperative effort among landowners, sportsmen and government. One of the most significant accomplishments achieved through combined efforts or regional boards and the Department has been to provide hunting and fishing opportunity on more than 450,000 acres of private lands under agreement with 1,250 landowners.

For further information, call: Arthur Woldt (518) 457-5400.

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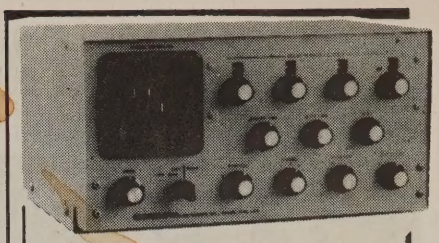

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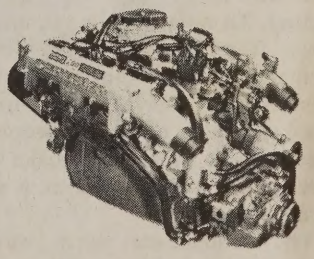

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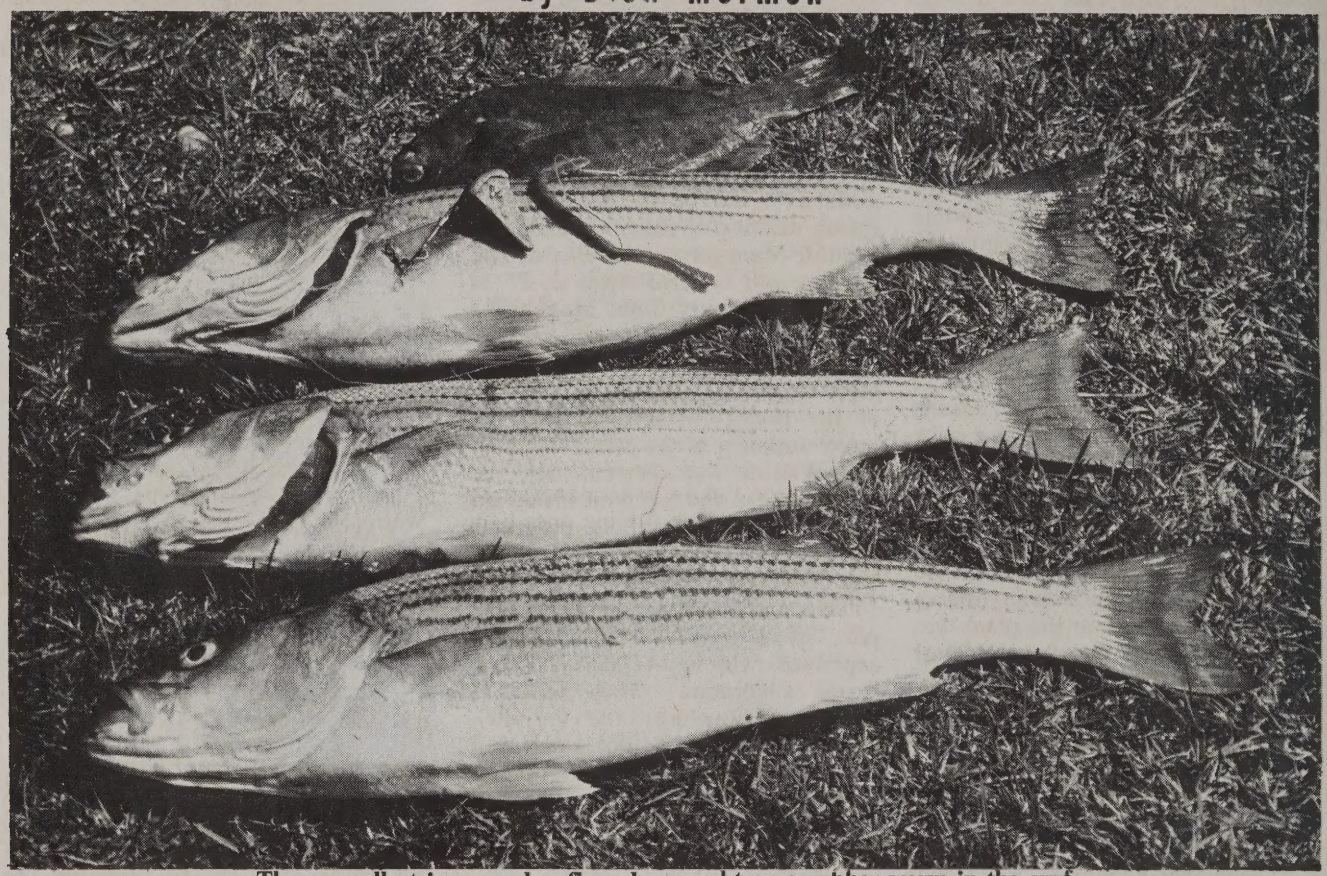
THE FABULOUS RUBBER WORM

by Dick Mermon



Three small stripers and a flounder, caught on a rubber worm in the surf.

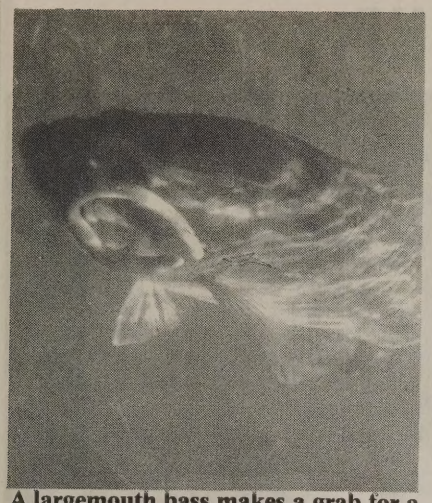
About eight years ago, a company came out with a long rubber sea worm that was to be used for salt water fishing. To no avail, for the lure went down the drain instead of the stomachs of fish. What had happened was that the fishermen at the time did not know how to use it properly. If there was no immediate strike on the lure, it was pronounced as a stink-o lure.

The rubber sea worm was very realistic, which felt as well as looked like the real thing, and actually, it was a few years ahead of itself. The worm today is a killer on many different species of fish. Also, at the time, there were no hooks imbeded in the worm, and most of the users did not know how or where to place them.

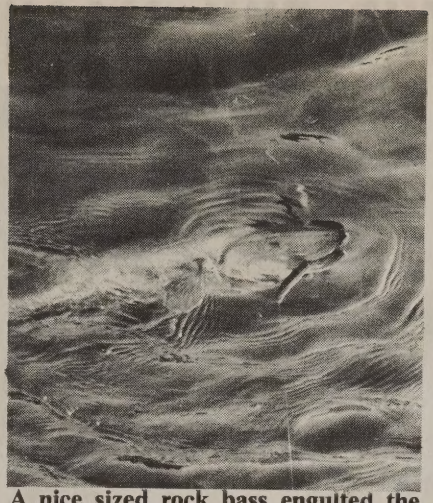
Actually, the fresh water fishermen were the thinkers when it came to the use of the rubber worm. They saw the potential of the rubber lure, and grabbed it. Using it several different ways, they found it to produce trout, large and small mouth bass, bluegills, perch, pickerel, and several others.

Not only was the rigging of the worm important, but how it was presented was also important. They first started by just putting a hook into a five or six inch worm and used it that way. Fresh water users found that the fish would pick up the worm, mouth it as it ran off, and would strike as soon as a pick-up was felt. This caused a great deal of misses or near misses, with the fish being hooked just slightly, and lost after a few minutes of battle. Then, the wormers tried a new way. Let the fish run a little while, then sock it to him. This method did the trick, but many times that little bit of a run allowed the fish to get back into a fallen log, weed bed, or some other obstacle from which he had come to take the lure.

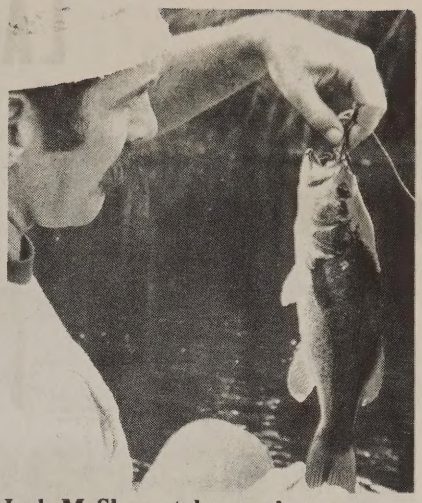
The one way to hook a fish that has picked up the rubber worm is to have a stinger hook in or near the tail. In this way, when the fish (any fish, fresh or salt water) picks up the presented worm and a strike is felt, the hook can be set immediately. Most of the time, when the rubber shoe lace lure starts to settle towards the bottom, a fish will make a grab at it, mouth it, then spit it out. He'll let it start to settle once again. This time when he makes a pass at it, he'll run with it. Sometimes they will grab the head and at other times the tail. That hook in the tail is the hidden surprise. Very few strikes will be misses if, as soon as the strike or slight pick-up is felt, you drop the tip of the rod and then strike back. That is if the double hook rig is being used in the worm. The double hook set-up is a must for use in salt water fishing. Not too much on striped bass, but weakfish have a tendency of running up on the worm from the back end, and when it reaches a certain spot in their mouth, clamp down on it with their two front fangs of the upper jaw. If the single hook is not back far enough, they will miss it or just become lip-hooked, and their lips are so tissue paper thin that it will pull out. This is why they are called weakfish. With bluefish, it will make no difference if there is a tail hook or not. They just chop, and a mono



A largemouth bass makes a grab for a rubber night crawler.



A nice sized rock bass engulfed the rubber lure.



Jack McShane takes a nice one on a weedless worm.

strung tail hook is just like no hook there at all. I have even caught flounders on a small four inch worm with the two hook set-up. Just as soon as I felt a hit, I would strike them back. Flounders are very touchy fish when it comes to the rubber worm.

Down in the southern and western lakes, they stick to the single hook through the tip of the worm, and imbed it in as far as the shank of the hook. The point and barb are then brought out of the worm. Sometimes a weedless hook is used to prevent snagging. If the worm is to be fished in a deep area and the fisherman wants it to get down where the big ones hang out, a small barrel sinker is attached before the hook is tied to the line. The barrel sinker is one that has a hole through the center of it and runs freely up and down the line. Now when a fish picks up the worm, the sinker settles in one place and the line runs free through it. There is no tension felt on the line from the weight. Sometimes these sinkers are tapered to a point in the front, and the tip of the worm is cut off. This is called the lead head worm rig.

These worms come in several different sizes. They range from three inches to a one foot giant. The larger of these are very popular in the Keys, especially the "Glow Worm." The pros take a flashlight and charge them up before they are placed on a

Continued on Page 17

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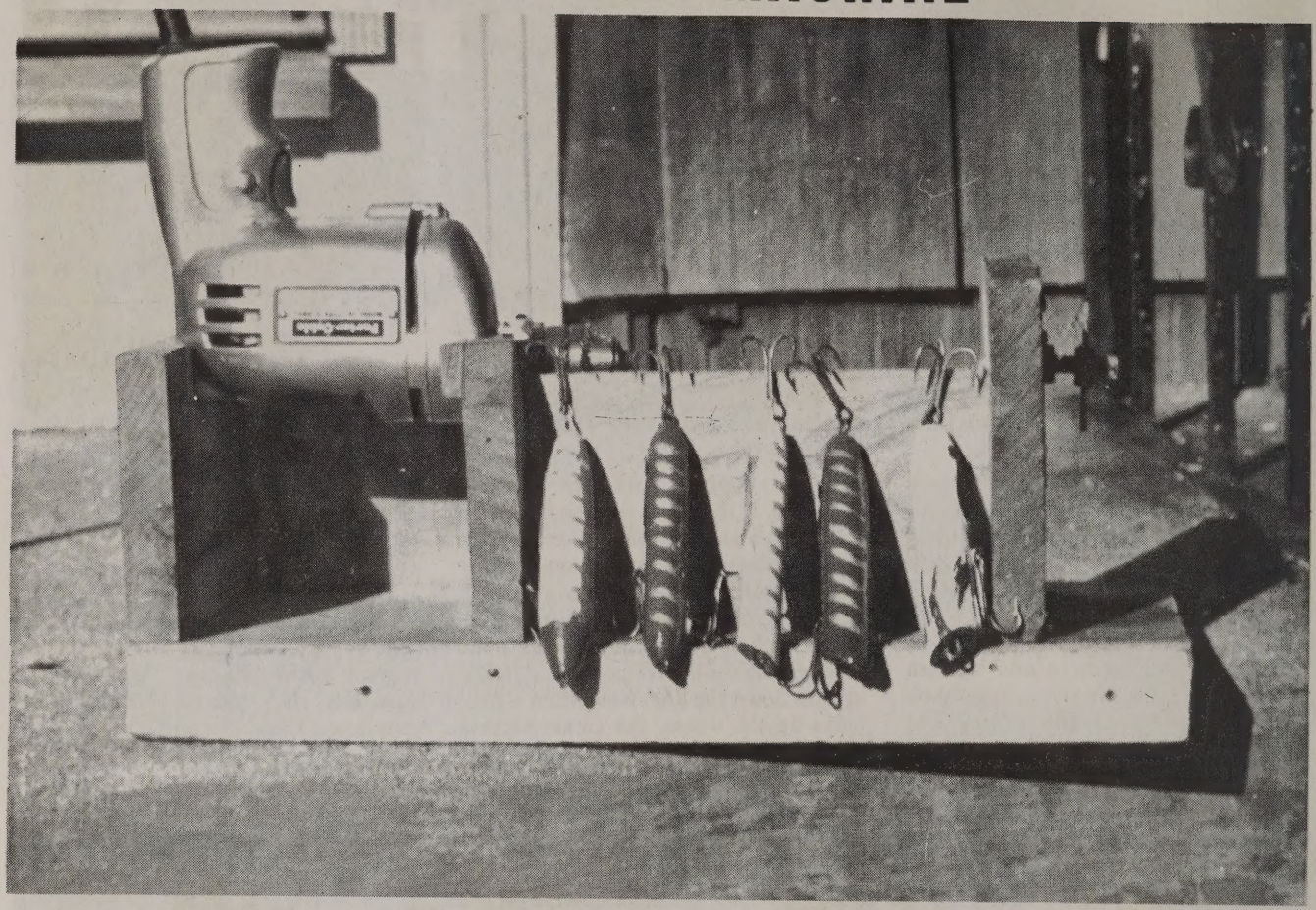


by Ted Wells

WHEN I wrote the article about the "Skinny Blue" plug that appeared in the L.I.F., Issue #3, 1973, it was not my intention to get so many of you guys so steamed up that you had to write or call in for directions. Since this seems to have happened, I'll try to get you started on a satisfying hobby that will keep you out of mischief in the cold weather of any year. What you will end up with will be anybody's guess - something better perhaps.

First, before you can turn a wood plug, you need a lathe. You can either buy one or make one out of a few scraps. The latter is the way I did it. The one I made is built around a Porter-Cable ¼-inch drill that turns 2400 R.P.M.'s. You need not use the exact dimensions as your drill may be different.

The base of this makeshift lathe starts with a board 16" x 6½". The next step is to cut two pieces 6½" long by 4½" wide. Tack #1 edgeways on the end of the 16" one to stand up the 4½". I made a notch in the center of the top of this board about one-half of the thickness, to receive the other end of the drill body. This notch should be deep enough so you can use a 3" x ½" piece of metal to bear on top of the rounded part of your drill to hold it down.

Bore a hole in each end of this metal to take a #8 wood screw, ½ inch long. I notched one hole so I could hinge the metal for removing the drill. When you get the notches in #1 and #2 boards so that the drill is straight and level, you can tack #2 in place. Use a long drill or drill rod for the following measurements. I put a flat head screw in the bottom of each notch for the drill body to rest on. This gives a means of adjusting the drill up or down. For side adjustment, tack a board on the back edge of the base and measure from each end of you long drill rod.

After your drill is level and straight, the #3 board, which can be 6½" x 5½" can be moved up to the drill by sliding on the base and against the board on the back edge. This will give the tail stock center. Drill for ¼-20 bolt, 2½ inches long with threads for nearly the whole length, Cut off the head. Sharpen the threaded end on a wheel or in your drill. Near the blank end, drill a hole for a nail with head removed. This will give you a tee handle which can be driven in or soldered.

Use a thin plate 1/16 inch thick 3½" x 1½". Drill four holes for screws and one for the ¼ inch bolt in the center. Solder a nut to line with the large hole and run a ¼" x 20 tap through. Put the ¼ inch pointed bolt in the hole, then install the screws in the plate. You will need a nut for a lock nut. Cut a board 7" x 4" and install between #2 board and #3 board, ¾ of an inch from the ¼-inch

tail stock bolt. This board will serve as a tool rest. Take off the board that you tacked on the back edge of the base. Cut a piece 6" x 4" and fasten on the back edge of base aand # 1 and 2 boards for stiffening. Cut a slat 16" x 2" and nail it on the front edge of the base, flush with the top so that the whole thing won't slide back on the bench. I nailed two thin wood blocks at the corners of the slot in #2 board to bear against the drill body for extra support. Then I drilled the ¼-inch lock nut, on opposite sides, part way through and soldered in a couple of pieces of nail to serve as a tee handle. That's it. You should be able to turn your first plug.

The wood that works very easily is used in curtain rods. Find one of those or an old broom handle. For "Skinny Blue," cut in 4½ inch lengths. Try to locate a center on each end and drill about an inch or so deep. Use a drill small enough to take a #10 screw. Cut the head from a #10 wood screw 1" long and put in one end. Then put it in the so-called lathe. Add a little oil at tail stock. I use a ¼-inch chisel to cut with. Turn to about 5/8 inch the full length. You can then sharpen at the tail. The front end can also be sharpened part way. Smooth with sand paper and remove. Grind or rasp the little material left on the front end and sand.

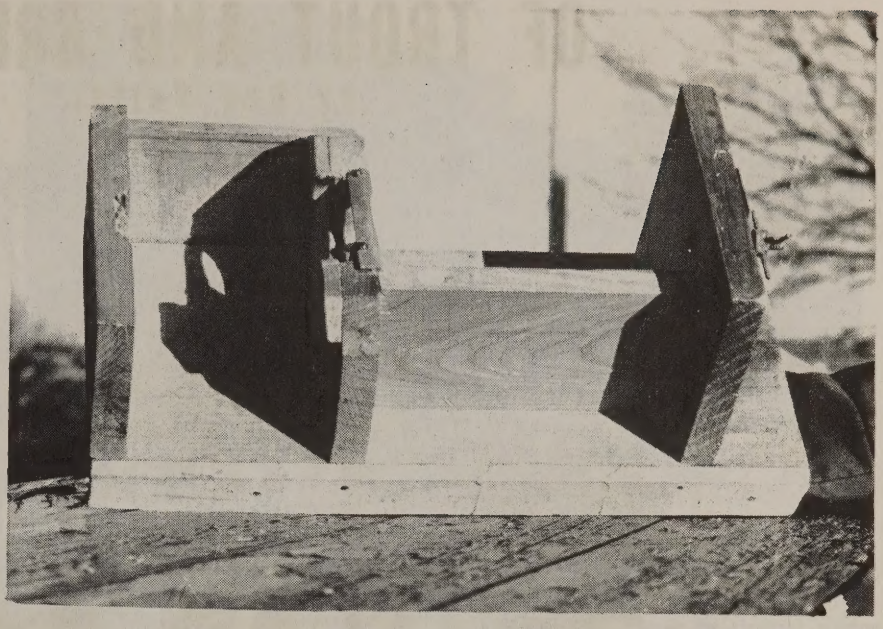
From this point on, you can follow the directions next week.

You will find that you can turn out any shape of round plug that strikes your fancy. Some can be larger at the front end and taper to the rear, or the reverse. To fashion a popper, you can simply cut the blank off at an angle and hollow the end with a countersink. Put the point of the countersink in the hole which you had originally drilled and cut out the center as deep as you want. Then taper to the edge by slanting the countersink. You can finish the depression with a knife and smooth it with sandpaper. After rigging and finishing the same as the Skinny Blue, paint the color and markings of your choice. You will then have a personal creation which may be just what those stripers or blues have been waiting for.

I paint the hollow nose with bright red. This may not make any difference to the fish but your buddies may think it's super.

List of Materials for Lathe

1 board 16" x 6½" (Base); 2 boards 6½" x 4½" (# 1 and #2, for stand to hold ¼" drill); 1 board 6½" x 5½" (#3, for tail stock); 1 board 7" x 4" (#4, for tool rest); 1 board 6½" x 4" (#5, to stiffen boards #1 and #2); 1 slat 16" x 2" (#6, to hold assembly from sliding back on bench); 1 ¼-20 bolt, 2½" long, threaded full length (cut head off); 2 ¼-20 nuts; 1 metal plate 1/16" x 1½"' x 3½" (tail stock); 2 #6 nails (for tee handles); 6 #8 round head screws ½" long; 2 #8 flat head screws ½" long; 1 metal strip 3" x ½" x 1/16" (to hold drill down); 1 head stock center. **Popular Mechanics** magazine for December, 1972 shows how to make an excellent one on page 165. Use a ¼" bolt instead of ½". - as a substitute head stock center, you can use a 1" wood screw #10 with the head cut off.



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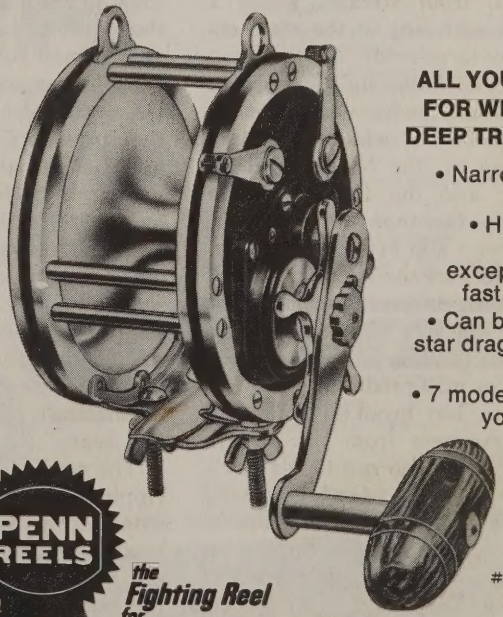

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OF TROUT AND BRIDGES

by Don Vetter

Road bridge, just south of Bubble Falls Pool, on the Connetquot.

Long Island is fortunate enough to possess two trout streams which I would rank with any in the state, as producers of large trout. Those of you who have been following this column throughout the year have undoubtedly already figured out which streams I am referring to: the Nissequogue in Smithtown, and the Connetquot in Oakdale. The fact that the majority of outsized brown and brook trout taken in these waters are sea-run fish, should in no way detract from the standing of these fine rivers (Beaverkill and Esopus purists, are you listening?). The brownies may predominate in the Nissequogue, but brookies and even rainbows (escapees from the private club, which may also run to the bay - steelheads on Long Island no less!), share the limelight on the Connetquot. This latter stream has been ranked by scientists, as one of the purest in the entire nation (please God we may keep its headwaters unpolluted).

The two streams share something else in common, besides their standing as top trout waters. Both rivers are spanned by small bridges; the Nissequogue at Landing Avenue, and the Connetquot by a L.I.R.R. span, at the south end of Bubble Falls Pool, and a small road bridge, a few yards still further south. Trout, especially large trout, simply dote on bridges, as they provide security from predators and shade from bright sunlight. Many a wise old trout is more than content to spend the daylight hours beneath one of these spans, waiting for anything edible that the current may send his way. It takes something tempting indeed, to coax one of these old fish to venture from his lair - a fact that was brought home to me rather dramatically one early day in May of last year.

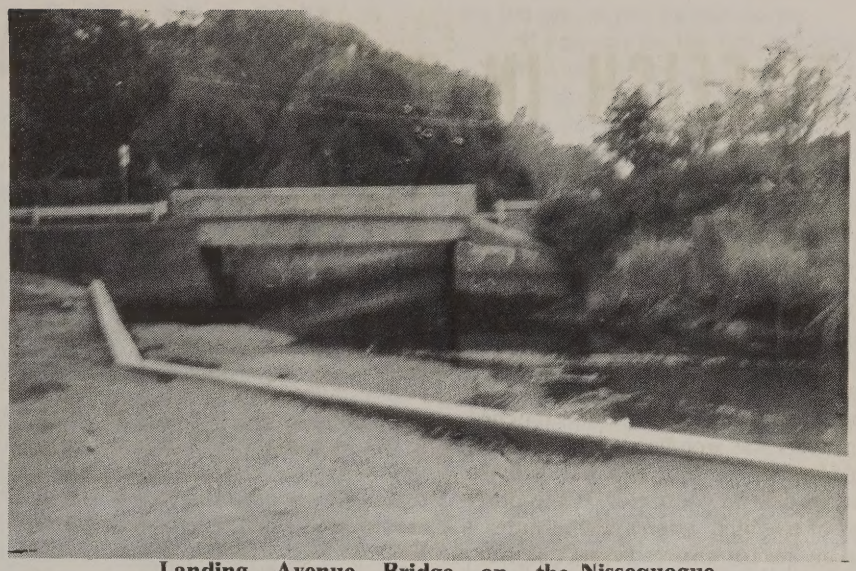
The newly risen sun had turned the rippled surface of Bubble Falls Pool to shimmering silver; the Falls were merrily chuckling, and the water was deserted. Miracle of miracles - I had the whole pool to myself, for the first time that year! This image of loveliness was spoiled for me, when the strident buzz of a swarm of flies drew my attention to a pile of alewives, left to rot in the sun - the gashes of the snatch-hooks clearly visible on their bodies, left no doubt as to how they had been taken. Such wanton waste, not to mention that the "sport" of snatching fish is illegal in waters inhabited by trout.

After walking through the woods to the south end of the pool, and while in the process of setting up the fly rod, a commotion in the water caught my attention. The pool was alive with alewives, splashing and cavorting in the shallows. These members of the herring family run up such tidal streams on the Island as are pure enough to their liking (of which streams there are all too few) from mid April through much of May. Resembling shad more than herring, with their golden sheen, the little fish can do more than provide forage for gamefish (fresh and salt water). They may be taken by angling (a fact of which many are unaware), and provide a spirited battle on a light fly rod. Tiny tinsel-bodied wet flies, fished with a quick-strip retrieve, will do the trick.

Having tied a #14 Silver Doctor to the 5X tippet, I waded stealthily into

the pool, to catch and release a few alewives, before seriously prospecting for trout. The tide was up, and water was within a few inches of the second (from the west) culvert of the railroad bridge. The alewife school swung in a broad arc, parallel to the span, playing follow the leader, as I made my first cast. As the last of the alewives passed that second culvert, a sinister form emerged from beneath the bridge, and engulfed one of the stragglers. The rest of the alewives fled in panic from this hook-jawed monster, with a body built like a beer keg. My hands were shaking, nerves taut as fiddle strings; I was face to face with that long-sought 10 pount trout! With a contemptuous flick of his broad tail, the huge brown returned to his lair. Switching to a heavier leader and my largest mylar-bodied streamer accomplished nothing; try as I might, drifting the fly under the bridge, and working it back, impressed the great fish not a whit (if in fact he was still there at all). I never saw him again.

Only on the high tide are big trout to be found beneath the railroad bridge, and then only under that second (deep) culvert. It is the road span that produces more consistently on this section of the Connetquot,



Landing Avenue Bridge on the Nissequogue.

owing (I believe) to the greater depth of water here. The Landing Avenue bridge on the Nissequogue presents a somewhat similar situation to the Connetquot railroad span, in that it usually harbors large trout only when the tide is up (curses upon those clumps of widgeon grass, which accompany Nissequogue high water).

For those who wish to hunt down these big bridge dwellers, live bait is probably the best bet. A large nightcrawler or two, or a big, lively shiner (roach), may be drifted under the span in a most natural manner, provided you omit the split shot. A fairly stiff spin rod and 8 lb. test (or better) mono, will enable you to handle the fish.

You may not get many fish in this manner, but what you do encounter may be the biggie of a lifetime; large trout do love those bridges!

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TILEFISH IN THE CANYON

by Ron Onorato

The boat had come to a gentle stop when the captain gave the signal to begin fishing. I lowered my baited rig over the side. It went down, and down, and kept going down. Finally, after about a minute, the sinker touched bottom. I was wondering if I would be able to feel the bite of a fish with 26 ounces of lead connected at the other end of the line. After a few minutes I got an abrupt answer to my question. At first I thought the weight was stuck in the mud, but when it began moving away from the boat, I knew I was into a fish. I began to reel up the animal at the end of my line. After 5 minutes and only half the line in, I was wondering if my arm could take it anymore. Then the line seemed lighter, and I cranked furiously. In seconds, a huge fish floated to the surface and the gaff was there to greet it. I finally got a tilefish.

Tilefishing is the most recent innovation to Long Island fishing. Reports of commercial fishing boats catching loads of big fish intrigued some enterprising party boat skippers, but just who made the first party boat trip for tilefish is unknown. But last year marked the beginning of a full scale operation for tilefish.

Tilefish are found basically in the offshore grounds known as the Hudson Canyon. It is an underwater extension of the Hudson River trench at the margins of the continental shelf. Water depths of the area varies from about 300 feet to close to 1000 feet, with the best depth between 350 to 450 feet.

Tilefish get big, a fact you should keep in mind when going after them. Specimens weighing over 50 pounds have been caught; but most of the fish will average in the 20-30 pound range. And since for the most part water depth will be about 350 or 400 feet, this as well as the size of the fish dictates a specific tackle.

The tackle must be of good quality and it must be on the heavy side. Choose a stiff codfish rod of about 6 or 7 feet in length. This type of rod will be able to handle the heavy sinkers necessary to hold bottom, and have enough backbone to lift a heavy fish from the depths. Roller tips and guides make reeling smoother.

The reel must be large, capable of holding up to 200 yards of 40 or 50 pound line. A 4/0 or 6/0 reel is acceptable. While most people choose to use monofilament, I have found this line to be very inferior. There was an excessive amount of stretch in the line and it really "bellied" in the water. At times it was difficult to feel bottom. The best type of line for fishing in the deep water is Dacron. It has relatively little stretch and tended to "belly" less than the monofilament. I was using 40 pound test Dacron and had no problem with break-offs. Some people chose to fish with wire line and lead core, and while they caught fish, they seemed to have difficulty managing the line. The best all around line would be the Dacron. All the reels that are going to be used MUST have metal spools. Plastic spools will not stand up to the pressure.

The terminal tackle is relatively simple, much like that used for codfishing. A 7/0 or 9/0 sproat or Eagle Claw is snelled on a leader of about 3 feet in length, of 60-80 pound test. The heavier leader will allow the angler to pull free from any obstructions on the bottom. Attach a large loop to the terminal end of the line. The sinker, weighing anywhere from 20 to 30 ounces, is secured to the loop. The hook is attched at varying levels above the sinker, usually 2 or 3 feet off the bottom. Only one hook is used in tilefishing as a doubleheader of big fish is extremely difficult to reel in.

Although there are several types of bait supplied by the boats for tilefish, the squid seems to be the most popular and the most effective. The squid is run through the hook twice: once through the top and again through the body. The squid found on the party boats are a little larger than the average store-bought variety. Other baits available were skimmer clams and frozen mackerel, but these baits caught very few fish.

After baiting up and lowering to the bottom, it takes a little while to adjust to the heavy weight but soon you develop a feel for it. If the wind is light, the captain may elect to drift for fish. This is usually more effective since a larger area is covered and fish that hit the hook are usually better hooked. If anchored, the angler will fish for tiles in a manner similar to cod. As a bite is felt, wait a few seconds to give the fish time to swallow the bait well. Once a fish is hooked and the battle starts, it is real work to winch a 40 pound fish 400 feet up to the top. So you should take it easy; setting the drag fairly tight, but below the breaking point of the line. The rod should do most of the work along with the reel. After about three quarters of the way up, the fish seems to float to the surface. The change of pressure makes the battle a little easier in the end.

The action was consistent all day long and no one groaned when the skipper announced it was time to head home. Everyone had caught at least one fish and many had six or seven. The smallest ranged from about 10 pounds, with the pool winner scaling the 50 pound level. These fish would be the makings of many delicious meals as tilefish is perhaps the most tasty fish available, with a taste similar to shellfish. The rails of the boat were strung with fish as we pulled into Sheepshead Bay and curious onlookers stared at the funny looking fish.

The average angler should have no trouble arranging a party boat trip for tilefish. Starting about the end of March, several boats sail from Sheepshead Bay and Montauk Point in quest of tiles. The trip to the Hudson Canyon takes about 7 or 8 hours depending on the speed of the boat, and there are usually five or six hours of fishing. Then the run back home takes another 7 or 8 hours, so the trip is at least two days and sometimes more if it is an extended trip. The boats that sail for the Canyon usually have bunks and are strictly limited in number. Food and drink as well as gear are available on board; the gear and food costing extra. Best to bring your own tackle since the tackle supplied by the boat is usually, in my experience, not in the best condition. Tilefish trips must be secured by reservation in advance, and will usually cost about $30. or $35 dollars a person.

Tilefishing is an exciting, challenging type of sport. No person is a complete angler until he tries for the beautifully hued denizen of the Hudson Canyon.

MACKEREL ARE MANY

When mackerel are in, all aboard catch.

by Ted Ness

There are a few hardy codfishermen who manage to keep their boats afloat all winter, but the majority of offshore fishermen are landbound in the early spring months. Towards the end of April, however, the cry "MACKEREL ARE IN" spurs many a fast bottom painting job and early launchings.

Mackerel are no great shakes as gamefish and only those who really enjoy fish flavor can sit down to a meal of them. They are quite oily and their soft flesh spoils rapidly if allowed to heat up in a plastic bag or fish bucket. (The smell of a long dead mackerel can really come on strong and if one is left in the boat, you will need more than a few cans of deodorant spray.)

On the plus side, mackerel are numerous, at times unbelievably so. If you are willing to settle for one or two garbage cans full . . . you can usually be home for lunch. Fortunately for us selective fish eaters, mackerel are wonderful bait and chum and therefore are a valuable bait freezer item. They are great bait for sharks, blues, stripers, and most other gamefish, and a freezer full will help you whittle down expenses this season.

In the early part of the season, mackerel can be caught within a mile of the beach, and in some deep water bays as well as the Long Island Sound. Last year, on a flounder charter out of Greenport, many of us ended up catching more mackerel than flounders - and we were fishing within sight of Mitchell's Dock. With Mackerel the problem is locating them . . . not catching them.

To find mackerel, you have at least three productive methods; one, find a fleet of fishermen and join in; two, run around with your depth recorder on and if you run over a school you'll have little problems seeing them on the flasher or paper recorder; three, just pick yourself a likely spot and chum until you attract a school (which are always on the move). Mackerel must always keep swimming or they perish from lack of oxygen, so it is sometimes advisable to carry some bunker chum to keep them near the boat.

Once you have located the mackerel, it is quite simple to catch them . . . in fact, it would be a task to keep them off the hook, even an unbaited hook. The popular mackerel rig, sometimes referred to as a Christmas tree, is primarily a multi-hooked leader with a diamond jig used as a sinker. Four or five 1 or1/0 hooks sleeved with colored surgical or plastic tubing, are attached to a four to five foot leader using dropper loop knots spaced about nine to twelve inches apart. Instead of tubing lures, small single hooked jigs can be used, but as it seems to make little difference to the mackerel, I suggest you use the cheaper of the two lures. Any tackle can be used, but as you often are trying to flip four or five mackerel over the rail at one time, you better make sure your rod tip is capable of taking the strain. I snapped the tip off a rod that took some good sized bluefish, but put me out of action for the last part of one fishing charter.

If you can see the fish, it is simply a matter of dropping the jig into the midst of them, and if you don't load up as you're doing this, give the lures a few jigs and pronto . . . you're in business. If you're not sure where the fish are, drop the lures all the way to the bottom and jig them back up. Don't fret if you lose a few fish as you reel them in as more often than not, some other fish is waiting to grab the empty hook. Unless you hold them under the boat with chum, you can usually expect flurries of action with periods of waiting in between (which your cranking arm will greatly appreciate).

As soon as you get your garbage can full of mackerel back to the dock, or preferably before, it is wise to clean all the fish which will be used for eating. The fish designated as bait or chum should also be given some treatment at this time. If you are using some of the mackerel for chum, it would be wise to grind it or chunk it while it is unfrozen, or you may spend many hours on some future fishing trip waiting for it to thaw so that you can cut it up. If you are using the mackerel for rigged shark, or trolling baits, it is also advisable to do this now so that they will be ready to go when the occasion demands it. Fish used for bait should be put into individual bags, or two or three fish to a bag, so that you can defrost only what you need for a particular trip. If you own a cat, now's the time to throw a few fish into the freezer to replace that more expensive spread that the cat has been thriving on.

If you are one of those sportfishing purists, you can angle for single fish with a light outfit and you'll find that the mackerel will put up a fight almost as good as his relatives in the tuna family, although his one to two pound weight will not have you running for the fighting chair. Also, as far as I know, no society is interested in tagging mackerel (they'd soon go broke supplying tags), so catch only what you can use or give away. Even though their numbers seem endless, it is senseless to feed the excess fish to your garbage pail, and after all, you can only have a limited amount of rose bushes to bury them under. Mackerel are an important part of the feeding chain that provides us with so many of our gamefish, so if you want to keep the big ones coming . . . throw the little ones back ALIVE.

Any of you guys heading out east for the spring flounders, make sure you have a few mackerel rigs in the tackle box. They don't take up much room and you never know when you may need them.

SNOWSHOE FLOUNDER

by Ron Onorato

Sometime around the end of April asthe weather warms and flowers bloom, I know the time has come to go fishing for snowshoe flounders. These members of the flatfish family were given the name "snowshoe" because of the size they attained. The average snowshoe flounder will be about 3 or 4 pounds in weight, while some specimens will attain weights in excess of 5 pounds. In order to be successful with snowshoes, a little must be known about them.

Unlike their smaller relatives, the bay flounder which begins feeding in early March, the snowshoe doesn't arrive in local waters until the end of April. Fishing will usually last through the first three weeks of May, and then taper off.

Like most members of the flatfish family, the snowshoe stays in close range with the bottom. For this reason, the angler must always try to keep the baited hooks on or near the bottom. The type of fishing tackle to be used will be determined by the strength of the current. When the current is running strong, 5 or 6 ounces of lead may be needed to hold bottom. Other times only 1 or 2 ounces is necessary. For this reason, the angler should have two types of outfits with him. A light-medium boat rod with a matching reel of 20 pound test line should be sufficient to hold the heavier weights. The other outfit should be a light spinning outfit with 6 or 8 pound test mono that would accommodate the lighter sinkers. On light tackle the snowshoe will give a good account of himself.

Many people believe that the snowshoe has a large mouth and therefore use hooks that are far too big. Like their smaller relatives, the snowshoe has a pretty small mouth. Two types of hooks are favored, the Chestertown type or the long shank Eagle Claw type. Hook size should be either #8 or #6, but not larger than a #5.

There are several ways to rig the hooks for snowshoes. The easiest way is using a three-way swivel. The sinker is attched to one eye, the hooks to another eye, and the line to the third eye. Usually two hooks are used. One hook is on a long leader and the other hook is attched to the middle of that leader. Another way involves the use of a fishfinder rig. Usually pyramid type sinkers are used for this rig. The monofilament line is tied directly to the eye of the sinker. Before this is done, the line is inserted through a barrel swivel. To the other end of the swivel, the hooks are attached. In this fashion the swivel will slide along the bottom while the sinker is stationary.

Perhaps one of the most important aspects of snowshoe flounder fishing deals with the bait department. There are several types of bait, all of which are good, that can be used by the angler. The most popular and perhaps the most effective is the mussel. It serves two purposes; it acts as a chum or can be used as bait. The fishermen using mussels should obtain at least a bucket or two if they plan to be successful. Usually the insides of one mussel is sufficient for the outsize flatfish. The shells are thrown over the side with some freshly crunched mussels. It is wise to chum fairly heavily until the fish start coming, then ease off and chum lightly. The easiest way to chum is by crunching the mussels underfoot and throwing them over the side. Some use a chum pot filled with catfood, ground bunker, and mussels. All of these have been found to be good. At times ground skimmer clam shells can be used, however, nothing beats fresh mussels as chum. Many times mussels are not available and the angler must use skimmer clams. The tongue and the ribbon along the edge of the shell are the best pieces to use. With the advent of food dyes as a natural coloration, skimmers can be made to be more effective. Dying them either red or yellow greatly improves their effectiveness. When using skimmers, it is important to keep the bait long and thin. A bait two or three inches long is good as long as it is kept thin, around a ½" or so. Putting the bait on the hook is important and there is a certain way of doing it. The best way is to put the barb through the bait once and leave the rest flowing off the hook. In this manner the flounder will be able to suck the bait in. If the bait is bunched on the hook, the fish will have trouble swallowing it. Sandworms and bloodworms will work with these fish, however, with their rising cost, fewer and fewer fishermen are using them.

The angler is now set to fish, all he has to do is go to the right spot. Snowshoe flounders are found almost exclusively in the eastern end of the Island. The angler can rent a skiff or go on a party boat. If the fisherman is going to rent a skiff, it may be a little difficult to locate fish in the early going. The boat liverymen are the best people to ask for information. Often they can follow other fishermen or they can follow the party boats. Once on the grounds, the skiff fishermen can drift if there is little wind, or they can anchor. Drifting is a better way to locate the fish. Once they are found, the anglers can then anchor. When actually fishing for snowshoes, it is imperative that the fishermen impart a little action to the baits. Instead of just leaving the bait on the bottom, the angler should lift the rod every few seconds. If a bite is felt, the fish should be given time to swallow the bait. Once hooked, the flatties give a good scrap on light tackle. Snowshoe flounders when filleted, are perhaps one of the tastiest morsels from the sea.

Snowshoe flounders are found in the vicinity of Peconic Bay, Gardiners Bay and around Block Island. In the western section of Peconic Bay there are several good areas. Nassau Point and Robins Island, Jessups Neck, and Cartwright Island are fish producers. Other productive areas include Promised Land, and Tabaccolot Bay. At the mouth of Montauk Harbor and around Washington Shoal, cod as well as snowshoes gather. Block Island grounds produce later in the season as the water temperature rises. All of these areas are well serviced by several boat livery stations, so the angler desiring to catch snowshoes should have no problem getting set up.

MAY FISH & GAME

BY FRED GUARDINEER

NORTHERN PIKE, MAY 1 - MAR. 1
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PICKEREL, MAY 1 - MAR. 1
12 INCHES, 10 PER DAY.

BOTH PIKE
AND PICKEREL HIT LURES AND LIVE BAIT, GOOD EATING IF YOU CAN GET BY THE BONES.

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...SUSQUEHANNA RIVER UNDER THE BRIDGE AT NINEVEH, N.Y.

IT ALSO TOOK PERCH, BASS AND ROCK BASS.

FLOUNDERING FLOUNDERS

by Bernie Schwartz

S YOU PROBABLY KNOW, the flounder season is well on its way. The weather has warmed up quite a bit and especially since floundering has been real early this year, I'm sure almost everyone has been out already at least once.

Those of you who fish have gotten your light sticks out of the mothballs, rewound and repaired them, and have even changed the guides when they have grooved. Lines have been replaced, hooks sharpened or bought, rigs tied, reels oiled or overhauled as needed, and drag washers replaced. The outboard is ready and checked out and even been out to the "Island" once or twice.

So you have been ready and have been fishing for weeks. You did alright, but maybe I can help with a few simple hints in the art of providing a few for the table.

The first question usually asked is, "Where can I catch flounder?"

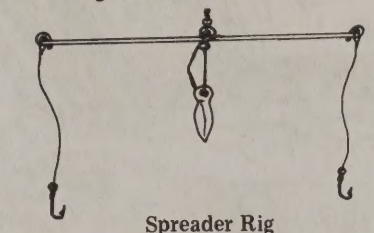
The only answer I personally can give is a general one. Flounder fishing at this time of year is universal in the Long Island area. From Sheepshead Bay to Montauk Point, both north and south shores would be the proper answer. In fact, all the area reached by this paper. Read your Long Island Fisherman for the hottest spots and the latest news.

Just about any mud flat or sand bar will produce flatties. Generally, fish in about six to twelve feet of water.

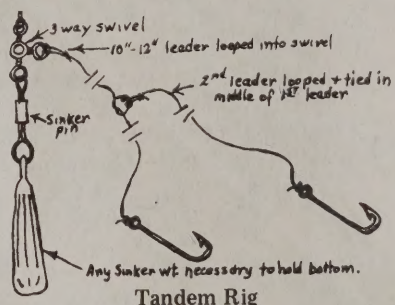
A light flounder rod, a light line (six to twenty pound test), and a small sinker (one to three ounces), are a must for maximum enjoyment of the sport. Your sinker must be heavy enough to hold bottom though. Remember, this is strictly a bottom fish you're after. You'll never get any fifty yard dashes from a flounder, however, they put up a very nice fight on light tackle.

There are three very good hooks to be used for them: The ordinary Mustad Chestertown hooks (size 8 to 10), a hundred year old veteran, a Mustad Carlisle (size 8 to 10), or a Wright and McGill Pattern 65 or 95 (size 8 to 10). These hooks have all been time tested, and they work; take your pick. If you tie your own, tie them with twelve to fifteen pound test leader and make them nine to twelve inches long. You can buy them already snelled in any length you desire, though you will find that the manufacturers usually use heavier leader material. Remember, the lighter leaders increase the chance of getting hits.

The following illustrations are the most common rigs used in the art of floundering flounders.



Spreader Rig


3 way swivel
10"-12" leader looped into swivel
2nd leader looped + tied in middle of 1st leader
Sinker pin
Any Sinker wt necessary to hold bottom.

Tandem Rig

The first rig is really old-fashioned, but many people still prefer it. I like the second rig better myself. It has less brass and seems to work better for me. You can even tie a third hook into it. A triple header is really an event.

When fishing from a boat, it's a good idea to carry along a sash weight tied to a heavy line. Lower this to the bottom and bounce it up and down. This stirs up the mud around the boat and releases the marine life buried in the mud. The flounders congregate to feast on the unlooked for bonanza and, of course, our prepared and baited hooks.

Oh yes, bait. Bloodworms, sandworms, skimmers, mussels, even nightcrawlers or garden worms are used. I like mussels, however, many anglers don't care for the job of opening them. This is especially true when the flounders are biting fast. Use mussels for chum though, by all means. Crush them and spread them in the water around the boat. If possible crush the mussels, place them in a paper bag, place a rock in with them for weight, tie a line to the bag and lower this to the bottom. Jerk the line till the bag breaks. This will spread the chum right

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under the boat. You also can use a chum pot filled with crushed mussels or clams. Crushed mussels, ground clams or even clam bellies can be prepared and frozen ahead of time. It's a good idea to freeze them in plastic bags just small enough to go into your chum pot. As it melts in the water, it should filter out of the pot just at the right speed, provided of course you were smart enough to take the plastic bag off first.

This article is of course incomplete without mention of weather and tides. Weather and tide conditions are up to the indivic' al and the areas involved. I like the incoming towards high slack, but in floundering it's not really critical. The best weather is a nice sunny day without too much wind. If you don't catch any fish, at least you can get an early tan. Of course when that day is to occur is beyond me. In fact, if you can predict it, please call me.

THE FABULOUS RUBBER WORM

Continued from Page 7

bucktail. When these glow worms are dropped down to the dark depths off the reefs, they give off a glow that attracts many different types of fish. I use these large worms for striped bass fishing. The double hook set-up is the best rig for these giants, as many times the bass will hit it short. The big fish just engulf the whole thing and then it makes no difference. When there is a current running, a split shot is placed about ten inches up the line, thus giving it weight needed to get to the depth of the fish. Actually, the best results are achieved when the worm is fished like a bucktail. Cast up current and let it drift along or near the bottom, and as the retrieve begins it starts coming to the top.

I use a five or six inch night crawler worm for weakfish. First I strip the hair from the lead head so that it is bald, and run the hook into the tip of the worm's head as far as the shank will go, then out of the body of the worm. If the fish are hitting short, a stinger hook is placed in the tail and tied to the eye at the head.

Rubber worms are fished as slowly as possible, the slower the better, especially in fresh water. They are retrieved in a manner as to make them look alive in the water. If there is no weight used, the worms will settle towards the bottom in a wiggling motion. When it is at the depth that the fisherman wants it to be (or thinks it should be), a slow retrieve is started, with the rod tip twitched each turn of the handle. This causes the worm to dance and squirm in the water.

Any type of tackle will handle rubber worm fishing. Spinning and bait casting tackle, in both the waters, are best in medium action rods. Many of the tackle manufacturers have a special selection of worm rods and line for this particular type of fishing. In fact, Shakespeare has a new line out now called "the Eye Crosser." The name originated down in Texas, where everything comes big. They say the way to hook a bass while fishing a rubber worm is to hit him so hard it crosses his eyes. This stops him dead in his tracks on the first run, and yanks him out of the stubble.

Color of the worms makes a difference in some places, as in wooden lures (surface and swimming). Sometimes fish will take a purple worm, other times they just want the glow type. I guess it is what type of a mood they're in, and what stimulates them into an attack. I personally have tried them all and have had the best action on the natural night crawler or the large glow worm.

These worms come packed several in a package, or two in a pack. Try them the next time you're out fishing (any type) and the action is slow. If the fish refuse them, you can always put them in someone's drink at a party.

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Put the SPORT Back in Fishing

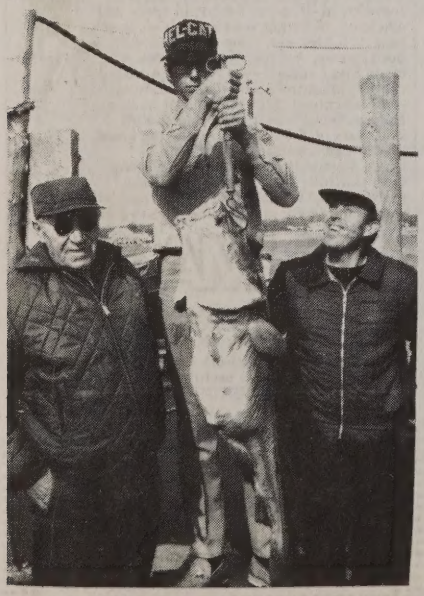
South Shore Reports

DICK MERMON

MONTAUK

"Saturday was a day," said Capt. Paul Forsberg, "but Sunday was THE day." On Saturday his fares had baout 600 cod on board. On Sunday the passengers asked him to up anchor early, and he was back at the dock by 2 p.m. They were arm weary and tired. The cod are 5 to 10 lbs., with bigger fish mixed in which range up to 30 lbs. Blackfish and snowshoes are an added bonus. These are Block Island fish, and there are plenty of them available.

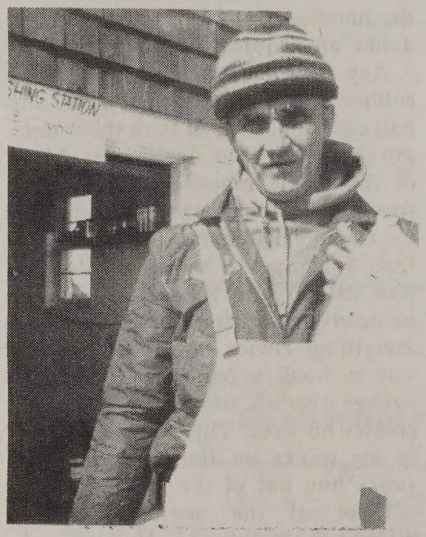
The "Peconic Queen" made its run to Cox's Ledge each day last week, and the fishing in this area was up and down. One day it's alive with all size cod and the next day it's off. Capt. Les Behan said possibly that the reason for the "on again, off again" days are due to the foreign fleets working very hard off the Ledge. On Wednesday the cod were there, and so were the trawlers. Thursday the fishing was off. On Friday the fish came back, and again the trawlers were there working like huge vacuum cleaners. Five trawlers worked in close, and eight more were offshore out of eye distance. The big fish for Friday was a 53 pound cod, caught by Lefty Felver of Summerville, N.J. On Saturday, Rich Canamero of Saddlebrook, N.J. took a 42¾ pound hake and Ed Fenet of East Meadow hauled up a 33¾ lb. cod. This proves that Long Islanders can catch big cod also.



"I think I'm caught in the rocks."

Capt. Brad Glas took the "Hel-Cat" to the Block Island Ledge on Saturday, and as he was checking on the goings on on board, as far as the catches were concerned, one elderly fishermen said that he was stuck in the rocks. Brad took the rod and then handed it quickly back to the fisherman saying, "better work on this a little while longer.' After a 15 minute struggle, with the assistance of his son, up came a 51 lb. cod. The fisherman, John Sank of the Bronx, was flabbergasted. The average cod are 5 to 15 lbs. Some big blacks are mixed in.

Pollack, snowshoes, blackfish and cod make up the report from the "Marlin III." The catch is about 300 fish for an average day, and occasionally more fish are taken. Everyone goes home tired and arm weary.



Bob West, of Totowabond, N.J., with a 3 lb. 2 oz. flounder, caught Saturday, April 14th. Photo courtesy of Promised Land Fishing Station.

PROMISED LAND

"Still a little spotty, but with the warm weather, things should get back to normal," said Art Brand of Promised Land Fishing Station. Blackfish are showing up. On Saturday, Frank Rama and Larry Lustig of Whitestone had 59 flounders up to 3 pounds. Worms and mussels were used as bait.

SHINNECOCK

"The water temperature is getting a little higher," said Hank Altenkirch. "Sea robins are in the canal." Stripers are on the beach at the Shinnecock Inlet and they run up to 8 lbs., however, most of them are shorts and should be returned. Flounders are still the best bet in the canal. A few weaks have been taken on the flounder baits.

Capt. Clark Bellows, Jr. reported flounders up to 2½ lbs. were caught on his "Capt. Clark I." Shinnecock was the spot to start, then as the tide gets lower, the Captain swings into Peconic. Last week the Captain had a 13 lb. blackfish on board. Once again, mussels and worms are best in the bait department.

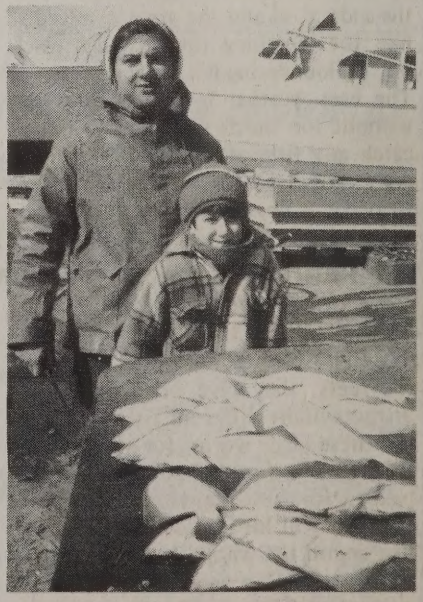
MORICHES BAY

Linda Schlueter said her husband, Capt. Ron Schlueter, had fair flounder fishing on Saturday at Forge River. Sunday was a day of rest and feast for the Schlueters.

The stripers are on the beaches taking worms and small Hopkins lures. Also, there are porgies and weakfish in the canal, reported B & B Tackle.

Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station reported the flounders were not hitting like they should, but things should change. The afternoon fishermen have been doing better than the morning fishermen. The difference in the size and quantity of the catches is in the chumming. "Chum baby, chum!" Frank said this is the way to get a good catch.

Silly Lily Fishing Station reported that the Feliciano brothers of the Bronx had over 100 flounders. They had to chum to keep the fish in the area, which was behind the Coast Guard Station.



John Miele and his son Joe, of Elmhurst, with flounders caught in Hart's Cove on worm bait and mussel chum. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

MASTIC BEACH

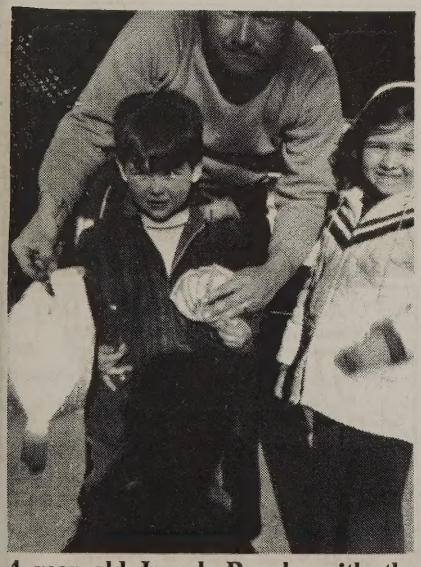
The flounder fishing is pretty good but not quite as good as it should be, reported Keenan's Fishing Station. Things will change with the better weather coming in. Some small bass are being caught from the bridge but no keepers as of yet. Flounders are averaging ¾ of a pound. "Throw the small ones back," said Ron, "so next year will be even better than this one."

SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station reported four different parties had terrific hits from fish while going for flounders, then breaking off. The fighting style seemed to be that of the mackerel, but there was no definite conformation since the fish were not landed. One gill netter came in with two 6 lb. weakfish the other day. Could have been weaks on the move that hit those baits mentioned earlier. The high hook for the week was John Aguis of Manhattan with three pails full of flatties up to 2 lbs. Dennis Masterson also said that Louis Kron of Farmingdale brought in a ½ pail of flounders which he caught right in front of the boat dock. These fish ranged to 2 lbs. Plenty of eels are also being taken.

CAPTREE

Fishing was fair all week and then turned to good on the weekend. The pier fishing is improving. Weakfish are mixed in with the flounders. Occasionally a striper or mackerel is caught also. Everything is now on the upswing in the area.



4 year old Joseph Roepke with the pool-winning 2 pound flounder, caught aboard the "Captain Leach," Captree.

BABYLON

The fresh water fishing picture is looking better all the time. There is less rain, warmer days, and the fish are starting to show signs of more frequent feeding periods. Mike Saraniero of West Babylon took a nice brown trout from the Oakdale area last week and the first carp of the season was weighed in for the contest by James Sagl of Babylon, a 2 pounder. Pete Bendel weighed in a 17 lb. carp and is now in the lead. Babylon Sports Center also reported largemouth bass are becoming active in their feeding. These fish should be returned to the water as the season is not open on them. Any fish that is not in season cannot be counted in for the contest prizes.

Charlie's Fishing Station reported the flounders are plentiful at Garbage Cove, near Cedar Beach in the State Channel. Fletcher Miller had 60 nice flatties over a pound each.

LINDENHURST

"The mackerel are here, there and everywhere, and give them time and they will be in everyone's freezers with the flounders," said John Schaeffer of Charlie's Bait & Tackle. John also said that he now has a new custom rod selection in stock called 'Sea Hunter Rods,' for any angler wishing a custom rod. To go with the rods, his new store is carrying boating shoes and clothes.

Duke's Bait & Tackle reported flounders from ¾ to 2 lbs., caught by Mr. and Mrs. Harran and their son in the State Channel between West Fox Creek and the Amity Cut. The first two hours of the outgoing tide was best for the bigger fish. Cedar Overlook has flounders up to 2¼ lbs. in the surf, with an occasional bass mixed in.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs of Combs Bait & Tackle weighed in the first weakfish of the season in his new store. Dick Rath and son Bobby, of Massapequa, went flounder fishing off West Island and Amity Channel and brought in this weak. Blackfish can be found at the 3rd Wantagh Bridge, said George. He weighed in a 5 pounder caught on green crabs. Trout up to 15 inches are on the feed in Massapequa Reservoir. One fisherman had 10 small trout on small live killies which George sold him on Saturday. He was back on Sunday for more. Flounders are everywhere. Joe Vanella of West Babylon had a bushelful fishing Fox Creek to Amity Cut. These flatties went to 2 lbs.

Mackerel are in 60 feet of water just southwest of Jones Inlet, said Marty of Sportackular. He also said that everything is about to explode, if the weather stays the way it is.

WANTAGH

'Striped Bass' is the word from Causeway Bait & Tackle. Frank weighed in two bass of 4 pounds each on Saturday. He wasn't able to get the fisherman's name due to the hustle and bustle of the customers. He also said the best bet for a good supper was still the flounder. They are everywhere. Some places are producing better than others, but one must chum to keep the fish around and on the feed.

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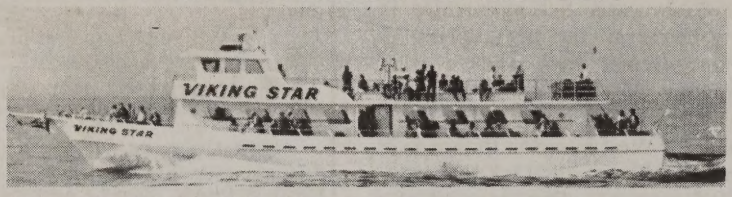

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SEAFORD

"Everybody's catching flounders," reports Dell' Fishing Station. Tony and Jimmy Agate teamed up with Howie Henderson of Elmont and fished just west of the 2nd and 3rd Wantagh Bridges. They really did a job on the flatties.

Naomi Fishing Station reported that good catches of flounder are being made. There are big ones and little ones, but mostly middle sized fish are being taken. The best location is near West Island.

Eastern Reel reports striped bass are all along the shoreline. All the inlets are producing bass in the short to the 6 lb. range. The fish are taking sand as well as bloodworms. Mackerel are also in the bays and in the State Channel but not in quantity as yet.

NEW YORK BIGHT

FREEPORT

The report from Capt. Jack's "Star Stream" is **fabulous**. Some cod were caught, but the big story was in the mackerel. Everyone caught loads of fish ranging from 1 to 3½ pounds. All this fishing was about 45 minutes from the dock. Capt. Bill Mieschberger of the "Capt. Jack VI" fished locally with 10 fares and h d about 400 flounders of mixed sizes.

Mackerel, and plenty of them, are available about 35 minutes from the dock. They were being caught at the Whistle Buoy and the Bell area. The mackerel are of good size.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed Wardle of Ed's Fishing Station reports there are plenty of flounder being caught in such places as Reynolds Channel, Cinder Creek, North Channel, Middle Bay and Sea Dog Creek. Just about all the boat renters are coming back with a well satisfied catch of flatties. The average size flat is ranging between ½ to 1½ lbs. Worm baits are workig best, however, some days mussels and clams really to a job. Those who chum with mussels do better than those who don't. The first nice catch of blackfish came in over the weekend. Joe Volt and Hank Holster of New Jersey caught several blacks up to 6 lbs. at the Meadowbrook Bridge. They used skimmer clams for bait. They said, "If we had fiddler crabs, we wuld have done better." Ed said he will have fiddlers in as of next week. The offshore fishermen are murdering the mackerel only 2 miles south of the Jones Inlet. The mackerel action started on Friday and held good right through the weekend. Surfcasters are doing quite well with the stripers. Most of the bass are being taken on worm baits. Although a good portion of the stripers are shorts or just keeper size, there are some being caught in the 8 to 10 lb. class. The hotspots are Malibu and Hempstead Beach.

Capt. Andy Pollio of the "Junior II" reports blackfish were being caught in uncounted numbers last Tuesday. This action took place on the stone barges southeast of the Jones Inlet. The Captain said that when he returned on Saturday for some more of this great blackfish action, he found they were gone. He then told his passengers to put on some mackerel jigs, and within minutes everyone aboard was hauling mackerel over the side. By 11:30 a.m. everybody had their fill and they returned to the dock. The stone barge is only 15 minutes from the inlet in 50 ft. of water.

LONG BEACH

Tom Keeney of the Long Beach Sports Marina reports fishermen are averaging 20 flounders oer man from ¾ to 1 lb., with an occasional larger fish up to 2 lbs. The fishing is best at Duck Point, directly across from the marina. Worm baits are best, with the most productive time being "the turn of the high tide." The offshore fishermen are coming in with loads of mackerel.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Leon Miller of Henning's Fishing Station reports, "The fishing is fabulous." Mackerel came right into the inlet on Friday evening. The macks seem to move in close to the beach in the mornings and evenings; by day they are no further out than the first buoy. Since mid-week every boat available was out, and all came back with good to excellent catches of flounder, averaging 20 to 30 fish per man. The hotspots are Woodburg Channel and Duck Point. There are also decent catches at Broad Channel and Reynolds Channel Buoy #5. Worms are best but clams and mussels are also working. Those who stir the bottom or use mussel chum are doing best. The local gill netters are coming in with loads of bunker. They also report about a dozen weakfish in their nets every day. These weaks are 1 to 3 lbs. No weaks have been reported on hook and line yet. There are plenty of short bass around, 8 to 10 inches long. Occasionally flounder fishermen are hooking into these short bass.

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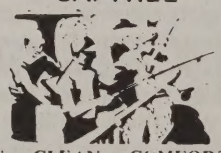

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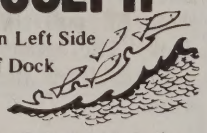

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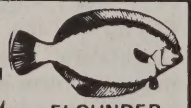

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Capt. Bruce Abugel (516) 277-3285

Blackfish have begun to hit along the private docks east of the Atlantic Beach Bridge.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny Killoran of Santo's Sport Shop reports the striped bass blitz taking place at Great Kills Park is still going on. The surfcasters are standing shoulder to shoulder fishing worm baits and everybody is catching bass. Most of the fish are 2 to 4 lbs., with occasional 8 to 10 pounders mixed in. For the purist, yellow bucktails are working inside Great Kills Harbor. Actually, the stripers are being caught anywhere from Fort Wadsworth to Tottenville, but the best spot is the Great Kills area. The best part of this whole blitz is that time of day or tide make no difference at all. Simply come down and toss a worm baited rig into the water and you're in. It's a great opportunity for anyone wishing to break the ice on stripers. There is also some excellent tommy cod action at all the piers. Small bits of worm on small hooks will do the job. If you work at it, you can come up with a bushelful. The flounder action remains great but it looks like it's beginning to slow down a bit. Maybe another two weeks of flounders and then that's it till fall. Blackfish have begun to show on all the rock piles. One black of 26" (about 10 lbs.) was caught at the Great Kills Jetty.

BROOKLYN

There are plenty of mackerel around for both the small and the party boats, says Neal Lauro of Stella Maris Fishing Station. Blackfish are being caught around the Marine Parkway Bridge by fishermen using clams, fiddlers and green crabs. Flounders are still around in the bays.

George Gnad of Bay End Dock had his boats out and fishermen were getting plenty of flounders on worms and clams. The fishermen were also getting a few blackfish while fishing for the flatties. The action seemed to center around Louie's Pier and Rockaway Jetty. George also mentioned one man who went out for blacks specifically. He fished the wreck by Louie's Pier and did fairly well on clams.

Mackerel are being caught from the Farms to Sea Bright, according to Mike's Bait & Tackle. Blackfishing is picking up from Sea Bright to Long Branch, just a little offshore. The party boats are going after these fish now. Flounders are still around in fair to good numbers around Breezy Point and inside the bay.

SANDY HOOK

Capt. Bunting of the "Sea Horse" reports the whiting and ling catches at the Mud Hole are excellent. Mackerel were being caught by the ton over the weekend, that is until the wind came up Sunday afternoon. Then everything died.

I called Julian's Bait & Tackle but he wasn't in. A pleasant woman who turned out to be his mother gave us a report of blackfishing in the area, with one man from Wayne Park, N.J. catching 40 blacks to 6 lbs. Cod are being caught and they are going to 6 lbs. also. There are short bass in the river, with the promise of larger fish coming. Flounders are still available and mackerel are offshore. It seems that no matter which way you want to fish, it is available, according to Julian's Bait.

NEW JERSEY

PETE BARRETT

SANDY HOOK

Morgan Beach near Keyport, Sandy Hook Park and the Race Track Pier in Atlantic Highlands are likely spots to sting a few small bass on worms, according to Joe at Julian's. Flounder fishing holds steady in Spermaceti Cove and along the Park with worms and chm providing fast action. The charter fleets are picking up ling and whiting at Scotland, ling at the Cedars, mackerel at the Farms, and small cod at Shrewsbury Rocks.

SEABRIGHT

Armand at Giglio's reported bass in the Shrewsbury River and along the surf from Sandy Hook to Beabright. Most are small fish taking sandworms. Steve Kiss had five, one of which was a keeper. Jim Hosey took 3 keepers over the weekend and Bill Blatt had a nice 6 pounder at the Shrewsbury bulkhead near Giglio's. Buddy Orio was the champ flounder man for the week with over 40 from small size to 1½ lbs. in the Shrewsbury.

MONMOUTH BEACH

4½ inch Rebels and Redfins are the favored plugs for Navesink and Shrewsbury early stripers, according to Paul Siciliano at Monmouth Bait & Tackle. Stripers are moving throughout the river's systems, with no real hotspot reported. A 6 pounder was confirmed from beneath the Seabright Bridge on a sandworm-dunking flounder fisherman.

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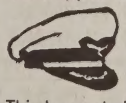
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LONG BRANCH

Whiting and ling are available at the Long Branch Pier in the evening with mackerel not too off. Herring chunkc on the incoming tide seem to do the best, says Bart Sowel who runs the Pier on weekends.

BRIELLE

Flounder fishing in the Canal and Manasquan River is good, with most catches about ¾ to 1¼ lbs. Mackerel are on the upswing at Manasquan Ridge where occasional blackfish are reported. Bob Voorhees of MV

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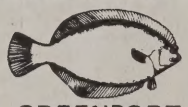
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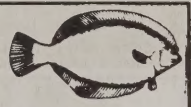
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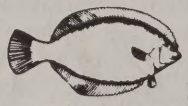
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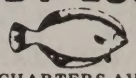
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Tackle reported fine codfishing at the Ridge for small to medium sized fish on clams.

NORMANDY BEACH

The Bait & Tackle Shop reported excellent flounder fishing around the Mantoloking Bridge, with fish being taken by the bushelful by the better fishermen using worms and clam chum. White perch are mixed in and average about ¾ lb. Stripers are in the surf from Point Pleasant to Normandy Beach and are hitting all kinds of bait from sandworms to mackerel chunks and strips and plugs like the Mirrolure and Rebel. A 23½ pounder was weighed in at the Shop, with a Mirrolure reported as the lure that fooled the big fish.

TOMS RIVER

Bay Bridge Boats reported fair flounder fishing at the Mathis Bay Bridge behind Seaside Heights. Either side of the channel is good and around the corner at Good Luck Point. Clarence Miller recommends clam chum and worms.

SEASIDE PARK

Stripers were hitting plugs all last week, said Art of Jean & Art's Tackle, but over the weekend, mackerel strips worked the best. Redfins, Hellcats and green or blue Mirrolures were last week's specials. Mackerel are offshore and flounder fishing is good in the bay bnear Oyster Creek.

BERKLEY

Winds slowed down the fishing in the Island Beach Park, but a number of good catches were weighed in at Judy & Bill's. Helen Marble had an 11 lb. 15 oz. bass; Al Capoposti topped that with a 19 lb. 6 oz. striper, but the happiest of them all was 14 year old Mike Casto with his first striper of 7¼

lbs. from the surf. Mackerel strips were the preferred bait over the weekend, with dawn and dusk the ideal fishing times. Flounder are still hitting well in Barnegat Bay.

BARNEGAT LIGHT

Flounder fishermen had catches from 4 to 300 over the holiday weekend at Henry's Boats, according to Mrs. Ghiglaity. Chum makes the difference, the best recipe being a mixture of clam chum and red dyed rice. The channel areas near the Barnegat Light are good and also at the mouth of Double Creek.

SHIP BOTTOM

Flounder are still delighting the weekend small boat fishermen in Long Beach Island along the bulkheads and especially at the Bridge. Bass are showing up in the surf, reported The Fishermen's Headquarters on clams, mackerel strips and worms. Most are shorts now with a few larger keepers like Bud Faux's 4 lb. 13 oz. catch.

BEACH HAVEN

Bill McCandless sure likes his flounder fishing! He had 55 on Thursday and another 113 on Saturday using clam chum and worms. He likes the middle grounds out in Little Egg Harbor Bay says Barry Baxter of the Snuggery Dock and an incoming tide. Stripers are small with a few notable exceptions like Joe Cunningham's and Frank Piotrowski's 6 bass on Saturday and 12 more on Sunday, running up to 5 lbs. Grassy Channel is the spot with red and white bucktails.

MULLICA RIVER

Striper fishing improved over the weekend in the Mullica, especially in the Swan Lake area where larger bass were reported to Stan Cramer of the Chestnut Neck Boat Yard. Haines Maxwell had a nice 10½ lb. bass on Wednesday. Weakfish are scarce at the Grassy Channel; the only one seen so far by Stan was a 3½ lb. catch by Mitchell Smith. Bass action is the best from the mouth of the river to Graveling Point and Little Beach on bucktails.

GREAT BAY

A number of larger stripers have been hitting the scales at the Great Bay Marina. Jeff Vreeland reported Jim Daisy's 19 pounder. Kenny Rieb had a 9 lb. bass and Jim Eggy took a 5 pounder off Little Beach. At the Stink House, flounder continue to please, with as many as 100-200 per boat. Many are weighing 1¼ lbs. Offshore, mackerel are plentiful just south of Buoy 2 BS. Bass men will be switching to mackerel strips soon.

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BRIGANTINE

Bill Heller of Young's Dock reported plenty of bass all around the sod banks at Brigantine. Most fish are hitting yellow, white or red/white bucktails dressed with mackerel. The incoming tide and high water seems the most productive. Flounder are readily available, with catches going as high as 120 per boat for those using chum.

ATLANTIC CITY

Offshore boats are doing well with mackerel, catching fish by the bucketful on red tube rigs with a two ounce diamond jig at the bottom. Surf fishing activity is good and fish just under the twenty pound mark are hitting mackerel strips fished on two hook rigs. Mike Sondone had a 17 lb. 8 oz. bass this Monday morning, and Sonny Brandenburger has bass using one of the new (to N.J. surfmen) Alvey reels from Australia. They must work as shown by his longer casts and an 11 lb. bass - others to 4 lbs. Jack Blades Tackle Shop also reported good flounder fishing but most fishermen are after the stripers along the North Beacg at Brigantine.

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MARGATE

Mackerel by the barrel full, reports Ralph Stork at Captain Andy's Marina. After 2 hours most anglers quit with more than enough fish. Smart trollers with recording fathometers are spotting bass under the schools of mackerel and are doing well with big fish on strip baits. Surf fishing is improving at Long Port and Ocean City with worms and mackerel. Don Mantagno hooked a big 8¼ lb. weakfish at the Long Port Bridge and other small fish have been reported, so the weakfish season is about to begin.

WILDWOOD

High winds put a damper on the flounder fishing at Wildwood for a few days, but catches of 20 to 40 were reported by Dad's Place. Calm weather will return the fishing to its usual better form. Tog (blackfish) of 5-6 lbs. are hitting clams at the Grassy Sound Toll Bridge, and Bobbi Dunham of Dad's recommends slack water. Bill Laumer moved out the inlet to some excellent mackerel fishing with tube rigs and diamond jigs. Mackerel were reported in the surf but there has been little in the way of bass action.

North Shore Reports

GREENPORT

White's Tackle Shop reported that the local charter boats did well both Saturday and Sunday, taking more than 200 flounders a boat on both days. The first mackerel of the year showed up over the weekend, pointing hopefully to a repeat of last year's bonanza. The mackerel are pretty well scattered over the area, but the large schools should arrive shortly.

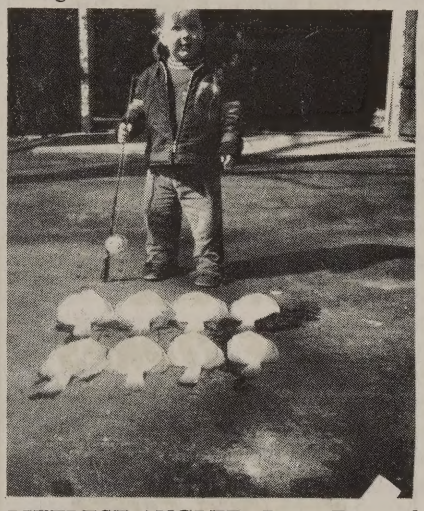
ROCKY POINT

Pat of Nick's Bait & Tackle weighed in a 3¼ lb. flounder. Most of the fish are all over the 1 lb. size. Fish are being caught right off Friendship Drive. She also said that the first blackfish of the year are being taken at Wildwood State Park.

NEW SUFFOLK

Sal Loria of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reported that fishing in general is excellent. Roosevelt Rogers and Jimmy Moses of Westbury took 40 flounders at Rose's Grove - largest fish was 2¾ lbs. The fish averaged 1-1½ lbs. He also reported a 3½ lb. yellowtail flounder taken Saturday. A photo will appear in next week's L.I.F.

Joe Alongi of Brooklyn took two nice blackfish on Sunday, one 6¾ lbs. and the other 5 lbs. Both fish were taken on flounder hooks, so Sal speculates that many good fish are being lost.



LITTLEST ANGLER: Larry Rice, of Middle Island, 21 months old, with his first catch of flounder. The fish ranged to 1¾ lbs. in weight and they were caught at Rocky Point.

David Johnson with a 2 pound 7 ounce flounder, and Mike Heyliger with a 2 pound 6 ounce flounder (right). Both boys are from Merrick. They caught their fish on Sunday, April 15th from Overton's Boat Station.

SAG HARBOR

Capt. Clark Bellows, Sr. of the "Capt. Clark II" reported good catches of flounder on Friday, even in the windy weather. The location was Cedar Point and Gardiners Bay. Saturday was a little off as far as the floundering went.

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Don Rozzi of Sag Harbor landed a 5 lb. striper which hit a mussel, reported Bayview Tackle & Bait. Flounder fishing is very good. Everyone had fish, and the ones that looked small were really fat. The biggest flattie brought in for the week was a 3 lb. 14 oz. fish, and that's a nice fish.

Helen Jacobsen of Noyac Marine said that Friday was a good day even with the wind, and all the boats returned with fish. Andrew Halasy of Plainview had a dozen nice flounders on worms, fishing Noyac Creek. On Saturday, Artie Milstein and Tony Outeiral of Brooklyn showed Robert Bernstein of Farmingdale just where the big flounders were. These anglers nhad fish over 3 lbs., several 2½ pounders, and 20 slightly over 2 lbs. The Brooklynites knew where the spot was and said that they fished the sand bar at the end of Jessups. Mussels and clams were the baits but the big secret was in the chumming. The first mackerel were also brought in by Brooklynites, Mike Albert, Sr., George Oweiler and Bryan Hoffmann. They also had 21 flounders all over 1½ lbs., caught near Buoy #17. With the surprise catch of mackerel, Mike Albert took his two sons, Steve and Mike, Jr., and proved that the mackerel were in on Sunday. They filled up a ½ of a garbage can with these macks and also took 34 flounders up to 2 lbs. Helen's last words were, "What beautiful fish!"

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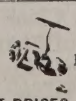

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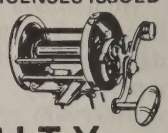

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SOUTHOLD

The Port of Egypt reported a "great fishing weekend" with mixed bags of flounder, blackfish, mackerel and cod. With the expected arrival of the first hook-and-line weakfish and porgies in the next two weeks, this spring should be the start of a banner fishing year for the North Fork.

Mario Maltese and his two sons, Joe and Steve, traveled to the POE from Brooklyn on Saturday. Their first stop was the old Brickyard only 3 minutes from the dock, and they took seven nice blackfish in short order, the largest tipping the scales at 5½ lbs. They finished up the afternoon at Buoy #17 and took 20 nice flounders on bloodworms to round out the day.

Chappie Calabro and Manny Colonna fished the east side of Smith's Cove Wednesday and landed 106 flounders ranging between 1-2½ lbs. Encouraged by this, they returned to the same spot Thursday and repeated with 96.

Mrs. Helen DeMalteris and friends of Woodhaven, Queens, took a break from the flounders and gave the mackerel a shot. They went to the Greenport Breakwater and were rewarded with 16 mackerel, all taken on small diamond jigs and tinker tubes.

Private boats are taking codfish at Rocky Point in East Marion, the Port of Egypt said. George Planzos and Markos Botsaris fished in 40 feet of water at the Point, with skimmer clams for bait. Saturday they took a dozen cod, largest 25 lbs. Returning to the same spot Sunday, they boated seven, including a 38 lb. lunker. For those interested in this small-skiff-codfishing, stop in at the Port of Egypt and they will be happy to mark the spot on a chart for you.

PORT JEFFERSON

Flounders are very good all over reports the Caraftis Fishing Station. Fish are plentiful right inside the harbor, averaging ¾ lb. and up. Larger fish of 1½-2 lbs. are being taken by boats drifting in the Sound between Crane Neck Point and Wading River. Sandworms and mussels are the baits of the day, with the hi-hookers chumming with mussels.

Capt. Joe Cash of the "Port Jeff Ace" called to report "the best flounder fishing in years" in the Port Jefferson area. Sunday his fares averaged 35 fish per man, all good size up to 2½ lbs. Blackfish and mackerel were also taken on Sunday, with Scotty McGinty of Centereach taking the pool with a 7 lb. black.

NORTHPORT

Ted of Bowman's Tackle weighed in blackfish of 5 and 3 lbs. on Saturday, both taken off Callahans Beach near Sunken Meadow. The first mackerel for the area were taken in the same area on Friday. Flounders were "excellent" in Northport Harbor and the bay, and good catches of big flounder are being taken in the Sound off Eaton's Neck lighthouse down to Callahans Beach.

"Outstanding flounder fishing," reported the Chainlocker Bait & Tackle. Many fish are averaging 1 lb. each are being taken right out of the harbor. Blackfish are starting at the Eaton's Neck lighthouse and promise a good spring run. Mackerel are being caught right off the docks in the harbor. Stripers are hitting in the surf at Asharoken, Crab Meadow Beach and Mackamah.

GLEN COVE

John of Glen Cove Sports said that the west end of the Bayville beaches have been producing good catches of large flounders. One fisherman came into the shop to get more worms. Fishing from the beach up his ankles in water, he took 38 flounders ¾ lb. and up, until he ran out of bait.

RYE

Point Tackle reported good mixed bags for the Rye area. Mackerel are beginning to show, flounders are excellent, good blackfishing with fish in the 2-3 lb. range, very good catches of tommy cod ranging from 2-3 lbs., and small stripers at the river at Milton Harbor. Bob Fisher took 16 bass on a Hopkins at Turtle Cove. Most of the fish were shorts; he only kept two.

BAYVILLE

"Excellent flounder fishing all over," reports Norm of Norm's Fishing Station. Blackfish are being taken off Centre Island Reef. Short bass are being taken in the same area and at the cove. Shad are coming up the Beaver Dam. There are a lot of herring in the Sound and they are being mistaken for mackerel on recorders. Mackerel have yet to make an appearance in this area, but should work their way down the river and Sound shortly.

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CONNECTICUT SCENE

DICK ALLEY

WATERFORD

Walt Hillyer at Hillyer's B & T was talking mackerel. A few of the offshore boats have already brought some in from deep water, so the run should be here in a week or two. First catches usually come from Wilderness Point, Fishers Island, and Valiant Rock. The cod are improving daily. Boats up Boston way are really cleaning up at this writing, so the picture should be great locally in a matter of days. Flounder are the here and now fish, and are being caught both in the river, and in Niantic Bay. School bass are feeding heavily, with fishermen loading up on a daily basis.

STONINGTON

The change to warm weather has put the flounder on a feeding spree up in these waters. Freddy's Boat Livery reports great success for rentals and shore fishermen alike. Hotspots are White Rock Harbor and Little Narragansett.

NEW HAVEN

Bass, blacks and flats share the honors in New Haven waters, although Frank had another of those unconfirmed mackerel reports. The Woodmont breakwater produced the first blacks of the season, scaling two or three pounds. Bass action remains about the same in waters off Savin Rock, but this is the fish that should explode into a bonanza next.

STRATFORD

The Housatonic Marina in Stratford reports excellent fishing along Russian Beach, Lordship, Long Beach, and Short Beach in Stratford, and good reports coming in from the Milford beaches too. Laurel Beach in Milford has been producing fine flatties. While bass action hasn't really broken loose yet, it probably will before this item is read. Meanwhile, a few school stripers of from 17 to 21 inches are taken every day at the mouth of the river.

BRIDGEPORT

At Bob's Bait, we spoke with Art Blake, and received a great report. Flounder hotspots are Penfield Reef, Bay Beacon and Bridgeport Harbor, with most fish averaging from ¾ to 1¼ lbs. Top fish in the contest at Port 5 so far is a 2 lb. 1 oz. flattie entered by Ray Denishia. However, there were three other fish entered over a pound and a half. First blackfish reported in these waters came from Sasco Beach in Fairfield, and it tipped the scales at 8 lbs. even.

At Ted's Bait & Tackle we spoke with Ted Ferrante, and got a report on the Pleasure Beach area. Bill Zenhye took 35 flounder there in an afternoon, which is good fishing. Ralph Rainieri scored at Penfield with 28 flounder, with the biggest fish of the day scaling over 2 lbs. John Cintes hit the same spot for 20 fish, as Penfield Reef continues to be the big production spot in Western Long Island Sound.

WESTPORT

There've been a few bass taken at Schlait's Point on worms, and that's a start. Ed Boland at the Westport Tackle Shop reminds us that all those shorts that traveled through last fall should be back any day again. Flats continue good both in the river and on the outside, and alewives are thicker than they've been in years. A few tom cod join in the action in the Saugatuck River.

NORWALK

Bob Utz at Four Winds B & T told of Les Andre and Tom Cutrone, who recently made the trip to Quincy. Four hundred pounds of fish in a day for the pair, who literally fished until they were too tired to fish anymore. While most were flatties from a pound to 2 lbs., 20 or 30 cod also came over the side of the boat. Locally, Bob told of Herb Gerstel, who fished the waters outside Cockenoe Island from Can #1 and came home with a stringer of 22 flats weighinh 25 lbs.

Rich manned the phone at Mola Bros. B & T and told of excellent flounder fishing in that area of Cockenoe and Sprite Islands. Vin had been out in the afternoon, and taken 40 good keepers. Steve Boski, Jr. caught and released a short striper at Calf Pasture Fishing Pier, and there have been reports of 9 other short bass recorded at that spot. Rick himself had been trout fishing at the Sodom River in Brewster, N.Y., and was rewarded with a 1¾ lb. brown trout. Nice fish.

We spoke with Tom Borges at the Tackle Box, who told of John Thingetts, who fished with fellow officer Frank Castagna one day and they only took a meager half dozen flats. John kind of figured that Frank put the jinx on him, so the next day went out and took 57 flats by himself in the area of Sprite Island. From Overtons comes the word of Ken Ballard and party, who fishing from a boat, recorded 187 flats in a day's fishing. Tom also told of several of the Norwalk Striped Bass club membership who bussed it to Quincy. Several 4-man boats recorded over 500 fish

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per boat. In many cases, the fish scaled to 2½ lbs., with one fish over 3 lbs. reported.

STAMFORD

Chris at Pat's Marina tells of good flounder fishing almost anywhere in Stamford waters. Fish are averaging about a pound. Blackfish, already in lobster pots, are expected to hit for the weekend. Al Abajowski came in with a report of seeing a school of mackerel off the Stamford Cows.

Jack Karmonosky of Jack's B & T, who flounder fishing off Cummings Beach, caught 40 flounder, weighing from ¾ to 1 lb., and released as many smaller fish in an afternoon. Jack himself was at Cummings in early morning, and spotted what was unmistakably a school of bass working. With his net working for a bait supply, Jack is already well stocked with alewives and bunker. There were also some whiting in the net when it was pulled.

GREENWICH

Russ Van Wynen at the Sportsmen's Den was jammed with customers getting ready for the Connecticut trout opener, but had time to tell of big flounders every time out at spots like Greenwich Cove, Bruce Point, the mouth of the Mianus, and just below the RR Bridge. Alewives are extremely thick below the dam, but sadly, there are no bass reports.

WESTCHESTER

Big flounder, first blackfish, and big tomcod, along with striped bass, comes the report from Dan Catalano at Point Tackle in Rye. The fishing spot is Milton Harbor, with good action reported at the Rye town dock. Flounder are scaling to 2 pounds on occasion, but what really had Dan excited were ranging from pencil dots to ½ inch in length. They also mean some fabulous fishing for everything through bass and weakfish.

At Camerons in New Rochelle, we get the first reports of school bass moving in from the Hudson River. Along with the great flounder fishing in this area, there was plenty for the youngsters to do all week. A river bank sure beats a street corner. A pair of blacks were taken during the week, and it looks like a bigger better week ahead.

BOATS

Capt. Steve Basil and skipper Hope Bard begin their open charter season aboard the "Capt. Bob" out of Waterford on April 28th with a few of my many friends at Co-op City Anglers. The Capt. Bob will sail for flounder, cod, mackerel, blacks, then weakfish and blues when their runs begin.

Locally, party boats are doing very well on flounder, The "Delmar" sailing daily out of Greenwich, has been traveling to Oyster Bay and eastward, with excellent catches all week.

The "Dolphin," sailing daily of Bridgeport has been doing well on the Connecticut shore, with flats up to and over 3 lbs., but in a search for even bigger ones, plans trips to Wading River next week. First blacks came aboard this boat last week.

HUDSON RIVER

PETE BARRETT

WAPPINGERS FALLS

Stripers are just beginning to hit nightcrawlers and sandworms in the Cornwall section of the Hudson River, according to the B & M Bait Shop. Catfish and white perch will be increasing in numbers each day now. In Wappingers Lake, crappies are hitting small shiners and nightcrawlers. Carp are starting to move now, taking dough balls and worms.

VERPLANCK

The Oyster Beds are excellent for river bass and have been hitting well on worm baits on the moving tide. Beach casters are having some success at Oscawanna, Crugers and Harmon. Catfish, perch and eels are available from the Georges Island Park. Most bass are school fish and shorts but a few in the 6-7 lb. class have been reported to Ace & Charlie's Tackle.

CROTON POINT

The section along the railroad tracks to the south of the Penn Central Bridge has been good all week, according to Pat Ferris at the Croton Bait & Tackle. Yellow, white and pink bucktails have been taking stripers to 6 lbs. Warren Prell had his first river bass on Saturday night at the bridge with a pink bucktail. Waders have been picking bass from the south side of Croton Point near the old creek mouth and at Tellers Point.

OSSINING

Big Mike Merolla leads the HRFA Striper Tournament with an 18 lb. 10 oz. bass which he caught on Saturday afternoon. He and Gene Garafano had 43 bass, many of which were tagged and released. Eddie Hoyt had 19 stripers on Friday night in the 3-6 lb. range off Crawbuckie Beach. Tony Morabito and his son teamed up with Tom Reistifo, taking eight bass to 5 lbs. Tony's Bait & Tackle reports good perch fishing and the best bassing with yellow or white bucktails.

FORT LEE

Most of the anglers in the Interstate Park are concentrating on the perch, tommies, eels and catfish, but stripers to 5 lbs. have been reported to Ed Graser at the Outdoorsmen Ltd. The Alpine Dock is the best for bass, while the cats, eels and tommies hit almost anywhere. Stripers have also been reported along the Edgewater docks.

U.S. COAST GUARD NEWS

The **United States Coast Guard Auxiliary** is the civilian arm of the Coast Guard, dedicated to the promotion of safety in boating. IT WAS CREATED BY AN Act of Congress in 1939, specifically to assist the Coast Guard in saving lives on the water.

Division XIX of the Coast Guard Auxiliary which encompasses the north shore from Cold Spring Harbor to Port Jefferson, has Flotillas based in eight locations and invites membership to everyone interested in safe boating. Public education, vessel examination, and safety patrols are the cornerstones of the Auxiliary, and anyone interested in working in any of these areas, please call the number nearest you for further information:

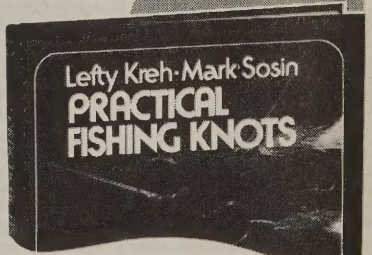
Cold Spring Harbor, 271-8311; Northport, 368-2389; Huntington, 757-8424; Asharoken, 724-4408;Kings Park, 368-3295; Stony Brook, 724-o236; Mt. Sinai, HR 3-0424; Port Jefferson, 588-2282.

Captain Tells How To Get 'Em

Charter boat skipper Ronnie Lepper of Far Rockaway, who is almost as good on the speaker's rostrum as he is at catching big stripers, will lecture on advanced methods of taking his favorite fish at the Striped Bass Seminar being staged by the Bass and Bluefish Association of Long Island. The meeting will be held at the East Meadow Republican Club, Newbridge Road and 8th Street, East Meadow, we are advised by Harry Loud of Levittown.

Tickets for the affair, $3.00 per, may be obtained by sending a stamped envelope to Marty Harper, 1879 Gerald Ave., East Meadow, N.Y. 11554. Tickets will be sold at the door. A large part of the money will be donated to Save Our Stripers, Inc., Loud said.

Don't lose another big one this year!



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1968 INTERNATIONAL, 23', OMC 155, all fiberglass, Navy top, outriggers, gin pole, radio depth finder, pole holders, many extras, excellent condition, $4500.00 with trailer. (516) CE 9-9140.

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VACATION HOME, skiff, lake, New Brunswick, Canada, near U.S. Rt. 95. Good fishing - landlocked salmon, trout, bass. Golf, tennis, etc. in Woodstock, Fredericton or Holton. Hand-hewn timber design with cooper hooded fireplace. Huge windows with view of islands & hills. May, June, Sept. $160.00 a week. (212) 972-3130 days or (203) 655-3441.

1959 35' OWENS CRUISER Flying Bridge, 2 stations, new 1972 twin 210 h.p., 60 hours, AM & VHF radios, electric head & refrig., 40 amp. Constavolt, trim tabs, swim platform, pressure water, shower, sleeps 6, cond.-excellent. Price $10,000. (516) 589-9136.

27' SPORTCRAFT, 1969. All fiberglass, sleeps four, flying bridge, outriggers, pole holders, radio, depth finder, compasses, 327 cubic inch 250 h.p. engine, completely rebuilt, under guarantee. Many more extras. Immaculate, $8,000.00. (516) 543-8173.

25' PACEMAKER, 1966, Fly-Bridge Sportfisherman, sleeps 4, fully equipped, ready for water. Evenings (212) 424-9782; weekends (516) 668-2145.

36' PACEMAKER SPORTFISHERMAN, tuna tower, twin 1971 260 h.p. Crusaders, 110 gen., outriggers, radio, Loran, C/B, hot & cold shower, sleeps 7, fighting chair, $13,000.00. 9-5 (516) 567-6888.

22' THOMPSON Hardtop Sportfisherman, 1966, 155 h.p. V-6, completely rebuilt, galley, stove, outriggers, depth indicator, fiberglassed, ready for fishing, original owner, boat in Freeport, $2150.00. (516) HA 7-7262.

BASS BOAT, fiberglass cathedral 14½ ft., 1968, 1971 Merc 500 electric, less than 10 hours. Extra tank, compass and depth finder, on aluminum trailer, ready for water. Call (516) MA 3-6508.

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FISHERMEN AND YOUR FAMILIES: Spring Special - Cedars on Tiana Bay - Housekeeping Cottages - Check in Friday, leave Sunday - Private beach, dock, free boats, your motor or ours. 1 bdrm. cottage, 2 persons, $40.00 wknd., $75.00 wkly. 2 bdrm. cottage, 4 persons, $60.00 wknd., $100.00 wkly. 3 bdrm., 6 persons, $85.00 wknd., $125.00 wkly. Write for brochure: 30 Rampasture Rd., Hampton Bays 11946. Call (516) 728-9528.

JEEP - FREE AM-FM radio, CARSON & SCUDDER, Long Island's oldest AMC Jeep Dealer will install AM-FM radio free of charge in all new Jeep vehicles sold in the month of April. CARSON & SCUDDER, 60 New York Ave., Huntington, N.Y. (516) HA 7-0270.

TRAILER HITCHES, the most complete Draw-Tite Line of Class I and II Hitches in stock on L.I. Sales, Installation, service. TOM CASH WELDING, Lake Ronkonkoma - (516) JU 8-6143.

BUYING A BOAT OR A HEADACHE? Professional licensed boat captain with 26 years coastal boating experience will inspect boat and engine, evaluating your total investment for only $2.50 per foot, including a four-page written report for you, your insurance broker, or banker. For complete information please call CAPT. JAMES W. ZOOK (516)RO 4-9677.

JEEP WAGONEER, new '73, $4195. complete, at New York's largest dealer. 1st in Sales, Service, Parts. Come see why. Long Island Jeep Inc., Est. 1928. 1400 Hempstead Tpke., Elmont, N.Y. (516) 354-0267.

LOT 75 x 100, Lake Rights, Cabin, Lake Cottage; 28½ Acres. Ethel Stanton, Deposit, N.Y. Call (607) 467-2097, after 6 P.M.

27 FOOT LUHRS, 225 h.p. Gray, rebuilt in 1971, sleeps 4, fiberglass flybridge with instruments - C.B. and marine radios, stand-up head with holding tank, depth finder, pressure fresh water system, vinyl deck, exhaust mufflers, anchor winch, excellent sweet running cabin cruiser, $3900.00. [9-5] call [516] 931-7200, ext. 65, after 6 call [516] 475-6594.

200 h.p. I/O OMC complete power pack [motor, intermediate housing, lower unit], new manifolds, carb. & wiring. Completely winterized incl. new pump. Excellent condition. Fast, will demonstrate, $1000.00. [516] 766-5792.

FISHERMAN'S SPECIAL, 16' Open Skiff, glass bottom, casting platform, 18 h.p. Evinrude, 2 tanks & hoses, extension handle, Little Dude trailer, new spare tire, extra cushions, anchors, lines, etc., $450.00. [516] 796-2355.

LOBSTER POTS: 36" Oak Hand-Doweled construc tion, from $6.95. Thrift Mart Marine, Selden, N.Y. [516] 732-8608.

22' MAKO, 125 h.p. Evinrude, 4 rod holders, rod racks, tachometer, outriggers. Bought late August '72 - used only 30 hours. In water, ready to demonstrate, must sell, sacrifice $4500.00. [516] 728-3475, after 6 P.M. or weekends.

16 Ft. WELLCRAFT Tri-Hull Fiberglass, 33 h.p. Johnson electric start, both 1968, bow rail, forward fishing area, heavy-duty walk thru windshield. Excellent, like new condition. Extras. [516] 728-3268.

12 Ft. PLYWOOD SPEED BOAT with 1972 Sears trailer with winch, 10 h.p. Evinrude, with all access., excellent condition, $450.00. [516] 872-3114.

ELECTRONICS for your boat: Motorola/ Apelco/ Raytheon VHF radios, depth sounders, antennas. All-brand service that's prompt, reliable, reasonable and a phone call away. I'm INEZ. Try me. Heine Marine Electronics [516] JU 1-0194.

WHOLESALE PRICES on spun nylon, filament nylon, and polyester line, 1'-599'. Special prices on 600' reels. H.A. Calahan Division, 859 Mamaroneck Ave., Mamaroneck, N.Y. 10543 - [914] 698-3266.

11' 6" Family Sailboats - double as great fishing boats. 90 lbs., 5 h.p. motor capacity. Buy a Mayflower at THE LANDFALL. $100.00 worth of free boating gear on $498.00 price. Free sailing lesson. THE LANDFALL, 859 Mamaroneck Ave., Mamaroneck, N.Y. 10543 - [914] 698-3266.

17' THUNDERBIRD, 100 h.p. Evinrude, fully equipped with many extras - including a Holsclaw Trailer, $2500.00. Call [516] 586-4776.

BOAT FOR SALE: Good condition TROJAN 21' - Bunk, galley and head, Evinrude motor, $600.00. [516] HR 2-0944.

20 Proven Metro & Long Island STRIPER HAUNTS pinpointed by Pros with 30 years consistent successes. We'll show you Exactly Where, When and How. Send $2.00 to DF, Box 441, Huntington, N.Y. 11743.

1964 CHRIS CRAFT 20 ft. Deep-V, all fiberglass skiff, 140 h.p. Interceptor I/O. Excellent cond., engine & drive overhauled 1973, $1900.00. [516] 427-2897.

1972 WELLCRAFT, 20' 6", fiberglass, 75 h.p. Evinrude, Navy top, full covers, many extras, $3000.00. Will sell without motor. All like new; have no time for boat. [516] FL 2-7028.

CLAM BOATS FOR SALE: 26' with 35 h.p. Johnson and clamming tongs, $1100.00. 20' Ft. with 33 h.p. Johnson, clamming tongs, wire baskets & dockage, $800.00.. [516] 842-3005 - Sterns Boat Yard.

WAVE DEMON - Two man inflatable Kayak, with foot pump, like new, $50.00. [212] FA 7-0399, after 6 P.M.

Two PENN SENATOR 6/0 Reels & Rods with rollers, $50.00 per set. Excellent condition. Days [516] 893-0381; eves. [516] 586-0285.

ALUMINUM BOAT TRAILER: New Trailex TX-4000, double axle, surge brakes, bearing buddy hubs, 5000 lb. powerwinch, spare tire, hauls to 4000 lbs. - 24'. ($1675 valve). Sale price $995. Write to L.I.F., Box TX, 8 W. 7th St., Deer Park, N.Y. 11729.

1963 32' FREEPORTER, Fly-Bridge Sedan, twin 225's, elec. refrig., radio, depthfinder, head, pressure water, electric winch, swim platform, sleeps 6, new cushions, $8500.00. [516] 825-9070.

FOR SALE: SPORT FISHING RODS. Private party disposing of fishing rods. 15 lb. up to 130 lb. test. Custom Altenkirch, Johnnies & Sea Isle. Fin-Nor & Penn Reels. [516] MA 7-4314.

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23' CUSTOM [Peterman Bros.] FIBERGLASS FISHING SKIFF, 1970 300 h.p. Chrysler engine, dual batteries, depth finder, compass, head, 90 watt S.S. radio, Cuddy cabin, rod holders, 40 MPH plus fishing machine, $4500.00. Evenings [516] 627-7234.

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DISCOUNTS - MARINE ELECTRONICS - Raytheon VHF-FM Radiotelephones, 12 ch., 25-watt output, list $495., special $299. Raytheon Recording and Flashing Fishfinder, list $300., sale $225. Trade your old marine radio, any condition, on new Motorola Modar VHF-FM. Marine engines, gas or diesel. Onan marine generators. Used fiberglass dinghy, $75. ALL COMMUNICATIONS [516] 261-5555.

COBIA FIBERGLASS, 24½ ft., 200 h.p. OMC I/O, depth finder, C/B radio, auto. bilge pump, head, sleeps 2, Navy top, full covers, rugs, compass, stereo 8-track, all accessories included, excellent condition, $4850.00. [516] 766-5792.

16 FOOT FIBERGLASS BOAT, 1966, 40 h.p. Evinrude 1963 - and trailer - $875.00. Excellent condition. Call evenings [516] 888-2056.

BEAT THE DEALER - 1971 WINNER 23 foot, Mercury I/O, full canvas, low hours, compass, depth finder, extras. [516] 334-5728.

PARECE BASS BOAT, 26 foot, 1961 hull, 1969 265 h.p. Palmer engine, fresh water cooled, Navy top, radio depth finder, outriggers, aft control stations, many extras, boat immaculate, price $8500.00. Mystic Marine Railway, 31 Water Street, Mystic, Connecticut [203] 536-8441.

23 FOOT WINNER, 1971, 215 h.p. Inboard/Outboard, fly bridge, many extras, $6500.00. Mystic Marine Railway, 31 Water Street, Mystic, Connecticut. [203] 536-8441.

ALCORT SUNFISH SAILBOAT, all accessories, $425.00. Holsclaw Trailer, $125.00. If sold together, $525.00. [516] 621-1789.

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"I've been through it before," you tell yourself, and depending on how you feel, it can be a happening or a nightmare.

Since the good Lord originally chose "poor fishermen" to follow Him (and teach the truth), the fisherman has always enjoyed an almost sacred image.

True, he's still poor and prone to lots of fantasy, but basically he's a gentle soul; happy, healthy and clean as all outdoors! A handsome prize for a lovely lass, provided she can land him.

Actually, the average fisherman is a remarkable fellow, unusually stable and coordinated; it's only when the transition occurs that life becomes totally unnerving.

The sudden trauma usually takes hold one damp, overcast day in September, accompanied by a northeast wind. Just the sort of day most people would prefer to spend in bed. However, this is ideal weather for the bass fisherman. A full moon above not only adds to the drama, but insures the fish are "there."

Days, weeks, months go by. Life goes on (somehow) for the rest of us but the bass man is out of it; only the image remains.

He is in another realm, entirely alone yet bound to the sea.

He can be seen in the distance, sunrise or sunset, at such favorite haunts as Cedar Beach, Democrat Point or Montauk.

He can be seen but not heard for his speech has become an incoherent mumble; his eyes glazed and searching. Seeking the bass among the blues.

But don't be deceived by this shadow of a man, for he is undaunted, relentless in his pursuit.

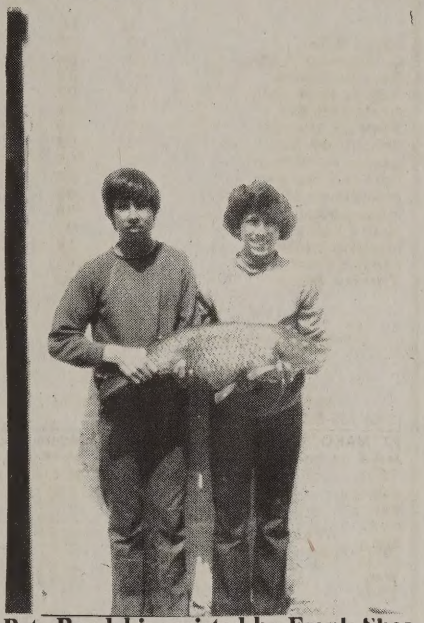
Leaves fall, covering the ground.

Autumn arrives in full splendor and is embraced by the fisherman who claims her for his own.

The bass appear and the contest begins. Our man is poised, eager for the fight.

The "Fall Run" they call it; and once again the elusive bass is coddled, captured and claimed. An even exchange for his skill, patience and perserverance.

Author's Note: The author has observed fishermen for 20 years; since three are in the family, she has been duly exposed.



Pete Bendel is assisted by Frank Shea holding up a 17 lb. carp, caught in Argyle Lake in Babylon.

Donald Hildebrant, Alan Maguire and Thomas Connaughton, all of Flushing, caught 130 flounders in Seatuck Cove in East Moriches. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

Frank Todino, of Ozone Park, with a 178 pound Golden Hammerhead Shark, taken off Miami on March 27th.

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Herring Rigged Bally Hoo Bally Hoo Rigged Mullet Spearing Jersey Bellies

TIDES: SOUTH SHORE
SANDY HOOK STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	1:27	2:07
Fri.	2:31	3:09
Sat.	3:34	4:08
Sun.	4:31	4:59
Mon.	5:27	5:50
Tues.	6:17	6:36
Wed.	7:03	7:22
Thur.	7:52	8:09

	H.	M.
MANASQUAN	-0	12
STATEN ISLAND	+0	07
ROCKAWAY INLET	0	00
Rangen Beach	+0	29
J.F.K. Airport	+0	26
EAST ROCKAWAY INLET	-0	06
Long Beach Bridge	+0	19
JONES INLET	-0	19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0	25
Zachs Bay	+1	25
Oligo Island	+2	25
Seaford Harbor	+2	05
FIRE ISLAND INLET	-0	38
West Great South Bay	+2	10
Heckscher State Park	+3	20
East Great South Bay	+3	44
MORICHES INLET	-0	56
Smiths Point	+3	28
Harts Cove	+1	30
Potuak Point	+3	35
SHINNECOCK INLET	-0	50
East Quogue	+2	45
Shinnecock Canal	+1	18
Indian Reservation	+3	05

TIDES: L.I. SOUND
WILLETS POINT STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	4:48	5:24
Fri.	5:47	6:25
Sat.	6:51	7:22
Sun.	7:52	8:18
Mon.	8:45	9:03
Tues.	9:36	9:52
Wed.	10:26	10:39
Thur.	11:13	11:28

	H.	M.
Little Neck Bay	-0	10
Execution Light	-0	06
Manhasset Bay	-0	01
Hempstead Harbor	-0	11
City Island	-0	03
Rye Beach	-0	28

TIDES: L.I. SOUND
BRIDGEPORT STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	5:25	5:58
Fri.	6:21	6:53
Sat.	7:16	7:42
Sun.	8:07	8:30
Mon.	8:56	9:14
Tues.	9:45	10:00
Wed.	10:31	10:46
Thur.	11:20	11:35

	H.	M.
Lloyd Point	+0	08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0	08
Bayville Bridge	+0	13
Eatons Neck Point	+0	03
Northport Bay	+0	03
Norwalk Islands	+0	10
Smithtown Bay	-0	03
Cranes Neck Point	+0	05
Port Jeff Harbor	+0	03
New Haven Harbor	-0	08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0	08
Herod Point	-0	07
Mattituck Inlet	+0	19
Horton Point	-0	20
Truman Beach	-0	42

TIDES: B.I. SOUND
NEW LONDON STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	3:28	4:15
Fri.	4:25	5:03
Sat.	5:19	5:46
Sun.	6:08	6:30
Mon.	6:56	7:14
Tues.	7:44	7:57
Wed.	8:31	8:43
Thur.	9:18	9:33

	H.	M.
Orient Point	+0	27
Connecticut River	+1	10
Little Gull Island (Race)	+0	12
Greenport	+1	04
Southold	+1	43
New Suffolk	+2	26
South Jamesport	+2	32
Shinnecock Canal	+2	33
Noyack Bay	+2	05
Sag Harbor	+0	59
Gardiners Bay	+0	21
Promised Land (Napeague)	-0	14
Fort Pond Bay	-0	29
Montauk Inlet	-0	25
Montauk Point	-1	13

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